Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-198
Wednesday
14 October 1987

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-198 *14 October 1987*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 October Middle East and South Asia Review 1

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

Libyan Air Force Continues Overflights 2
Noted 8 Oct 2
Noted 9 Oct 2
Flights Continue 12 Oct 2
Opposition Holds Congress in Burkina Faso *[AFP]* 2
Tripoli TV on Group's Attack on French Base 2

Egypt

Mubarak Letter of Designation to Prime Minister 2
Changes in Government, Armed Forces Announced 4
New Cabinet 4
Supreme Court Head Appointed 5
Navy, Air Commanders Appointed 5
Background on Military Chiefs 5
Assistant Defense Minister Named 5
Background on Chief of Staff 6
Sudan's Al-Mirghani Meets Mubarak, Departs 6
UAE Presidential Envoy Arrives for Visit 6
Meets Mubarak; Conveys Message 6
Ugandan President Makes Stopover, Meets Mubarak 7
PRC Leaders Cable Mubarak on Reelection 7
'Abd al-Majid on Palestinians, Peace Process *[London AL-MAJALLAH 30 Sep]* 7
Abu Ghazalah on Military Strategy, Maneuvers 8
Navy Commander on Minesweeper Purchases 9
Referendum Results Sign of 'Dictatorship' *[AL-WAFD 10 Oct]* 9

Libya

'Mercenaries' 'on Alert' on Southern Border 10
Leader on Children's Deaths in Gulf War 10
Leader Receives Message From UK Church Head 10
Al-Qadhdhafi Ready To End Sri Lanka 'Massacre' 10

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Makes Sanadah New Foreign Minister 10
Al-Mahdi, Delegation Depart for Visit to Japan 11
New Government Expected on Al-Mahdi's Return 11
State Council Member Taj al-Din Interviewed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 30 Sep]* 11
Al-Mirghani in Romania for 7-Day Visit 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Liberian Oil Tanker Attacked Near Dubai 14 Oct *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 13
UK Flotilla Finds Mine in Gulf of Oman *[PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 13
GCC Interior Ministers Meet in Abu Dhabi *[Abu Dhabi]* 13
1st Session Concludes *[WAKH]* 13
Ministers To Adopt Items *[KUNA]* 14

Kuwait

USSR Envoy Denies Reports on Iran Relations 14

PDRY

Al-'Attas, 'Ali Nasir Reportedly Meet *[Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR 9 Oct]* 14
Former Leader's Trial Expected Soon *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Oct]* 14
Al-Bid Chairs Political Bureau Meeting 15
YAR President Sends Anniversary Greetings 15

Saudi Arabia

King Receives U.S. Official, Reagan Note 15
Pakistani President Arrives on Pilgrimage 16
Arrives in Jeddah 16
Received by King Fahd 16
Departs 13 Oct 16

Yemen Arab Republic

President Accepts Summit Invitation 16

IRAQ

President on Gulf War, Summit, Al-Asad *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 12 Oct]* 17
Leadership Discussues Gulf War, Arab Summit 22
Kurds Say Kidnapped Italians Not Hostages *[AFP]* 22
Gulf Operations, Air Strikes Continue 22
Basra Shelling Escalates 22
Communique No 2,873 Issued 23
8 Said Killed in Shelling 23
Papers React to Iranian Missile Attacks 23
Baghdad Funeral Described 24

ISRAEL

Shultz To Present Shamir Interim Husayn Deal *[HADASHOT 14 Oct]* 25
Weizman Soon To Get Invitation to USSR *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Oct]* 25
Soviet Officials on Group's Visit to USSR *[MA'ARIV 12 Oct]* 25
Extended Stay 'Symbolic' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Oct]* 25
Iran Said Preparing Attacks in U.S., France 26
PRC 'Opening Its Gates' to Israeli Tourists *[HADASHOT 11 Oct]* 26
Islamic Jihad Seen 'at Doorstep' in Territories *[HADASHOT 13 Oct]* 26

JORDAN

King Husayn Returns From Visit to Cairo 28
King, Queen Depart for Finland on State Visit 28
Abu 'Awdah Leaves for Algiers With Invitation 28

LEBANON

Jordan's Dudin Invites Al-Jumayyil to Summit *[RFL]* 29
President To Lead Delegation *[VOL]* 29
Al-Jumayyil Interviewed on Crisis Situation *[London AL HAWADITH 9 Oct]* 29
Phalangist Party To Postpone Upcoming Congress *[VOL]* 34
Amal Threatens To Launch 'Major Offensive' *[RFL]* 34
Fundamentalists Protest Hangings in Tunisia *[VOL]* 34
Hizballah Protests U.S. Actions in Gulf 34

SYRIA

Al-Asad To Make 'Friendly' Visit To Bulgaria 35
Foreign Minister Returns After Visit to UAE 35
Arab League's Klibi Arrives, Makes Statement 35
Talas Meets PDRY, Finnish Military Officials 35
Paper Urges Summit 'To Confront' U.S. Policy 35
Commentary Defends 'Pan-Arab Role' in Lebanon 36

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

UK Envoy Criticized for 'Interference' 38
Armand Hammer Arrives, Met by Minister La'eq 38
Holds Talks With Najib 13 Oct 38
Keshtmand Meets Soviet Friendship Delegation 39
Message Sent to CSSR on 'Friendly Ties' 39
Najib Comments on Reconciliation Policy 39
Commentary Criticizes U.S. Policy in Gulf 40
Forces Capture 'Extremist Elements' in Takhar 40
Mujahidin Leader Denies Stinger Sale to IRGC *[KUNA]* 40
Party Sends Message to Nimroz Peace Province 41

India

Gandhi Departs for Commonwealth Conference 42
Stops in Tokyo 42
2,000 Sikhs Demonstrate 42
BBC Interviews Gandhi on International Affairs 42
Comments on Fiji, Pakistan 42
Comments on Sri Lanka 42
Gandhi Explains Objectives in Sri Lanka 43
Government, LTTE Accused in Fasting Death *[DINAMALAR 1 Oct]* 43
Opposition Discontent Over Troops in Sri Lanka *[AFP]* 43
Natwar Singh on Talks with U.S. Officials 44
Fence To Be Built Along Bangladesh Border *[AFP]* 44
Reports of Terrorism Prompt Alert in Delhi 45
Five Killed in Punjab Incidents 11-12 Oct 45
Iranians, Afghans Arrested on Punjab Border *[AFP]* 45
Delhi Experiences Major Power Breakdown 13 Oct 45

Iran

Navy 'Ready To Confront' All Foreign Forces 45
Greek Vessel Reportedly Detained 12 Oct *[Athens]* 46
Ship Released; Crew on Board *[Athens]* 46
REUTER Reports Attack on Saudi Tanker 12 Oct 46
AFP Reports No Casualties 46
Liberian Registered Tanker Attacked 14 Oct 46
Musavi Urges Japan To Stay Out of Gulf 46

Khamene'i Receives 'Status Report' on Forces 46
70 Percent Self-sufficiency in Arms Reported 47
Geneva Arms Procurement Office Reported Open *[KUNA]* 47
Iran, Iraq Embassy Staffs Arrive in Ankara 47
Beirut Embassy Issues Statement on Camps 47
Velayati Questions Muslim Silence on Attack 47
Khomeyni Meets Martyr, POW, MIA Families 48
Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Committee Visit 48
Two Mehdi Hashemi Accomplices Executed 48
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 48
IRGC Armored Maneuvers End 48
Convoy Leaves for Front 49
Planes Bomb Schools, Plants 49
Iraqi Plane Forced Down 49
Communique No 2,987 49
Report on Karbala' Maneuver 50
Communique No 2,988 50
Artillery Hits Ammo Depot 51
Planes Bomb Iraqi Kurdistan 51
Mojahedin-e Khalq's 90th Raid *[KUNA]* 51

Sri Lanka

No Moves To Restart 'Political Dialogue' *[AFP]* 51
LTTE Sends Message to Indian Government *[AFP]* 52
LTTE Charge of Killings Said 'Blatant Lie' *[Delhi]* 53
LTTE To Initiate Disinformatition Campaign 53
Tamil Group Urges LTTE, Indian Cease-fire *[AFP]* 53
Battle Reportage on Tamil Separatist Violence 54
LTTE Using 'Human Shield' *[Delhi]* 54
LTTE Attacks Near Trincomalee *[BBC]* 54
Gunboats Patrol Eastern Coast 55
LTTE Attacks Mutur 55
Landmine Kills Policemen 56
'Heavy Fighting' in Jaffna *[Delhi]* 56
LTTE Attacks Vavuniya 56
Indians Shell Batticaloa *[AFP]* 56
Jaffna Death Toll High 57
Mutur 'Under Control' 57
Indian Troops Advance *[AFP]* 57

14 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD141322 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Military Developments—The death toll rose to 32 after an Iranian surface-to-surface missile hit an elementary school in Baghdad 13 October, according to an INA report. The Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied Iranian "claims" that the missile was intended to hit the Iraqi Defense Ministry building.

INA announced that Iran shelled residential areas in Basra, killing 8 people and wounding 36 others. An Iranian communique carried by IRNA acknowledged long-range shelling of Iraqi "eco-military centers."

Radio Monte Carlo, citing *Reuter*, reported that the Liberian oil tanker *Atlantic Peace* was attacked by an Iranian speedboat in the southern Gulf but sustained no damage.

London's *Press Association* noted that a Royal Navy minesweeper discovered a mine off Al-Fujayrah in the Gulf of Oman.

Iraq

The Patriotic Union of Kurdestan (PUK), a pro-Iranian Kurdish separatist group, stated in an IRNA report that it was holding three Italian engineers in northern Iraq to protest "Italy's military aid to the Baghdad government." AFP reported that a PUK spokesman in Paris confirmed the Italians were "detained" but in "no danger." Rome international radio reported that the Iranian Embassy in Rome "categorically denied" any Iranian involvement in the kidnapping.

Iran

Arms Procurement—Iran has opened an arms procurement office in Geneva, KUNA reported citing a "well-informed source." A similar office was shut down in London earlier this year, KUNA noted.

Execution by Stoning—A "pseudo-clergyman" was executed by stoning after being convicted on charges of extortion, fraud, drinking alcoholic beverages, and narcotics possession, Tehran radio announced.

Egypt

New Government—MENA reported that the new government was sworn in 13 October after Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi submitted the government's resignation to President Husni Mubarak. The president announced the appointment of a new defense minister as well as new Navy and Air Defense commanders, according to Cairo radio and MENA reports.

Mubarak submitted a letter of designation to the prime minister outlining the priority tasks of the new government, MENA noted, listing them as: "increasing national production, reforming the educational system, attaining a substantial leap in tourism, improving housing and public health services, and completing a comprehensive plan to develop Egypt's administrative system."

In his inauguration speech to the People's Assembly carried by Cairo radio, Mubarak spoke at length on domestic affairs adding, on the subject of international affairs, Egypt's support for Kuwait, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

King Husayn Talks—Jordan's King Husayn and President Mubarak held talks 11 October on the Gulf conflict, the upcoming Arab summit, and bilateral relations, MENA reported.

Israel

Violence in Territories—IDF radio reported "minor disruptions" in the Gaza Strip and stone-throwing in East Jerusalem in the continuing wave of violence in the territories. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a meeting of West Bank "dignitaries" that the disturbances would "end in the next few days," the radio also reported. An ICO communique carried by SPA condemned the 11 October incident in which members of the Jewish Temple Mount Movement were allowed to tour the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Soviet Delegation—The Soviet consular delegation in Israel received formal permission from the Foreign Ministry to extend their stay by 3 months, *The Jerusalem Post* announced.

Afghanistan

Yunos Khales, a leader of the Afghan resistance group Hezb-e Eslami, "strongly denied" reports that two of his commanders had sold Stinger missiles to Iranian representatives in Pakistan, KUNA noted.

Kuwait

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah met with Soviet officials in Moscow, KUNA reported. TASS noted that the oil minister held "friendly and frank" talks on the Persian Gulf situation.

Chad

Libyan Air Force Continues Overflights

Noted 8 Oct

AB092002 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Al-Qadhdhafi has resumed his extreme habits by trampling underfoot the resolutions passed by the OAU ad hoc committee in Lusaka on the cease-fire, and, in particular, on his Air Force aircraft's overflying of Chadian territory. After a lull of several days, the Tripoli fascist has ordered his Air Force to overfly Chadian territory. The Libyan Air Force thus yesterday overflew two localities in the north of the country: Bardai at 1200 and Ougui at 1100. These acts of warmongering were carried out following both the interview granted by El Hadj Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, to the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Akhbar*, and our foreign minister's address at the UN General Assembly that laid bare Al-Qadhdhafi's true aims in Chad: He intends to use Chad to establish a stranglehold on sub-Saharan Africa.

Noted 9 Oct

AB092005 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] The Libyan Air Force violated the cease-fire today by overflying the localities of Zoumri at 0030 [2330 GMT 8 October] and 1000, Wour at 0400, and Yebbi Bou at 1200.

Flights Continue 12 Oct

AB131933 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] The Tripoli fascist regime, with its escapist policy, continues to send its aircraft to violate Chadian airspace. Yesterday morning planes belonging to the Tripoli bandit overflew the towns of Bardai, Wour, Zoumri, and Ougui.

This violation of Chadian airspace takes place every day, even though the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee held in Lusaka recently in its resolution called for moderation. It also called on the two parties to submit legal documents supporting their claims for examination at a meeting of the committee at the end of this month. Instead of concentrating on meeting this deadline, which it has now been granted for the last time, Libya prefers a conflict situation by overflying our country's airspace nearly every day.

This attitude is quite normal considering the expansionist policy of the Tripoli regime. This attitude can only irritate the pan-African organization as well as peace- and justice-loving countries. Unfortunately, there are countries that blindly back this policy. We are referring to Sudan and Algeria, as well as other Arab countries.

Opposition Holds Congress in Burkina Faso

AB081023 Paris AFP in French 0902 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Ouagadougou, 8 Oct (AFP)—Two of the seven Chadian opposition factions forming the Neo-GUNT—the Chadian National Liberation Front (Frolinat) and the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR)—have decided to hold their joint extraordinary general congress this week in Ouagadougou, Mahamat Saleh, the CDR information official, announced yesterday evening.

Mr Saleh explained to AFP that the solemn opening session of the congress took place on 6 October under the chairmanship of Acheikh ibn Oumar, chairman of the Neo-GUNT and secretary general of the CDR. The congress, whose proceedings are expected to end on 12 October, will ratify decisions made during the last meeting of the GUNT in Ouagadougou from 26 to 31 August 1987, Mr Saleh indicated.

The Neo-GUNT decided notably at this meeting to create for the Chadian revolution a sole ruling party and one minimal political platform. The Ouagadougou meeting grouped some 80 participants representing the 7 factions of the Neo-GUNT—the CDR; the Frolinat; the Popular Revolutionary Movement (MPR); the People's Armed Forces (FAP); the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Chad (MPLT); the National Democratic Union (UND); and the Western Armed Forces (FAO).

Tripoli TV on Group's Attack on French Base

LD112246 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] It has been learned from reliable Chadian sources that a detachment belonging to the Bilalah tribe and under the command of Haroun Boucetta attacked a French base in the region of Am Timan, southern Chad, on 30 September. It disabled a Gazelle helicopter at the base. The detachment also captured a French military expert at the base. He remains under detention.

Sources said the detachment that carried out the operation was composed of a 2d flight lieutenant, an Air Force warrant officer, a sergeant, and a soldier.

The agent Habre gang had earlier claimed that the aircraft in question was missing for unknown reasons.

Egypt

Mubarak Letter of Designation to Prime Minister

NC131239 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Following is the text of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's Letter of Designation to Dr 'Atif Sidqi:

Mr Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi:

Greetings:

I have received your letter dated 12 October 1987 in which you tendered your government's resignation on the occasion of the beginning of my second term. I would like to express my gratitude for the sincerity and diligence you have shown throughout your chairmanship of the Council of Ministers, my satisfaction over the style you have adopted in fulfilling your assignment during this critical stage of our national work drive, and your sound administration of government affairs.

This was evidenced by your focus on the main issues that preoccupy the people; the priority you have given to the security of everything concerning these issues; your commitment to the sound and scientific approach in making short- and long-term plans for confronting problems and challenges; your eagerness to ensure coordination between the Council of Ministers and all the other state departments; your objective outlook on the government's affairs; and your concern for the public's interests.

This has enabled the Council of Ministers, under your chairmanship, to achieve tangible results in various fields, particularly those I highlighted in my Letter of Designation to your government on 9 November 1986.

It is my belief that stability and continuity are the most important factors needed in carrying out national duties. They constitute the fundamental preconditions for progress and development within a framework of a well-studied and comprehensive socioeconomic development plan that gives particular attention to the future of our beloved country and the life of generations to come.

Therefore, and since it is essential for the national work drive to be a series of successive confident steps in the same direction, I have decided to designate you again to form the government so you can continue your efforts and dedication, complete the tasks that you have started in all fields, and overcome whatever obstacles may exist on the road to a better future.

I would like to draw your attention to the following tasks:

First: an increase in production at rates exceeding expected increases in consumption, thus transforming Egyptian society into integrated production cells. Within this framework each and every citizen will be assigned a specific task to carry out and a continuous and steady decrease on our dependence on the outside world to meet the needs of our citizens will be ensured. This would help control increases in the price of basic commodities and services. This increase in production, which must cover both the agricultural and industrial sectors, should be achieved through effective contributions from both the public and private sectors, while being mindful of both the quantity and quality of products. It should also open new fields of work.

This is particularly important in light of the fact that the maximum utilization of the youth's energy and creative capabilities heads the regime's list of priorities and commitments. To be more specific, I hereby entrust the Council of Ministers with the task of increasing the area of land for reclamation purposes to up to at least 150,000 feddans per year, providing the necessary facilities for citizens and national companies to achieve this target and simplifying all procedures for the ownership of these arable lands.

The production plan for the industrial sector must attain the target of manufacturing production lines and hardware so that imports of machines and other equipment can be kept to the minimum. It is also important to spread production awareness throughout urban and rural areas and deepen the concept of productivity as a social value dear to the people's hearts throughout their lives.

Furthermore, it is essential to establish a better system for the distribution and marketing of goods and products, particularly agricultural commodities, in a bid to decrease the rate of waste in these products and control prices for those of limited income.

In this respect, I would like the Council to hold a national conference for increased production, to be attended by experts and scientists specializing in this field, whether they work at official departments and research institutions or are members of political parties. The conference should take up issues of increased production and the products' distribution in a comprehensive manner, making recommendations appropriate for the attainment of this objective, which tops the list of national priorities.

In addition, I need not draw your attention to the issue of exports and the need to define targets for all production sectors, whose executives must be judged according to their success in attaining these objectives. I hope that this conference will convene and complete its task within 6 months.

Second: Reforming the education system in Egypt. While we have been satisfied with the steps taken in this respect in past months, we would like to express our desire to see an integrated plan to attain this target, without which it would be difficult to achieve the rennaissance that we desire for our beloved Egypt, as a sign of loyalty to our homeland and as part of our commitment to its noble people.

The education reform plan must extend to cover all aspects related to the education system, with the ultimate objective of creating successive generations of qualified producers who possess capabilities for creativeness and innovation and who maintain their values and ethics in future plans.

I would like this plan to alleviate the burdens of Egyptian families and enable educational institutions to assume these burdens instead, after making sure they are equipped with the necessary capabilities to achieve this objective. Also related to educational reform in Egypt is the need to give attention to culture and arts from childhood. This is particularly true since culture and arts aid greatly in creating good citizens and a strong society that can rise to meet the greatest challenges.

Third: Achieving great strides in the field of tourism. This can be attained through optimum utilization of the natural and cultural features and characteristics our noble country enjoys and the enormous resources available in this respect.

Fourth: Upgrading services in the housing and public health sectors. This would enable productive citizens to have a decent place to live with their families and to find necessary medical treatment at a reasonable cost. The attainment of this objective entails the need to provide building sites, expedite measures to achieve self-sufficiency in building materials, establish the necessary funds for financing the construction of the new housing, particularly for youths, and to provide a comprehensive medical insurance plan for all citizens.

Fifth: Drafting a comprehensive program for upgrading Egypt's administrative system with the cooperation of the People's Assembly. The purpose of this target is to eliminate red tape as much as possible, to end conflicts of jurisdiction among the various state agencies, and to facilitate procedures for the citizens seeking services from the government departments at both local and central levels.

In this respect, I would like to refer to the need to conduct a comprehensive revision of all the existing laws and regulations in order to eliminate any contradictions and duplicity among them, so that they might be more responsive to the legitimate requirements of the population. This revision also entails the need to determine the legal status of citizens and institutions, simplify procedures for litigation and notarization, for the ownership of reclaimed land, and for the issuance of permits and licenses necessary for investment projects.

I need not draw your attention to the fact that work in these domains must continue along with the other fields of public work, in accordance with the principles and obligations outlined in the second 5-year development plan and in an atmosphere of stability and security in which the spirit of cooperation, solidarity, and faith is the same destiny for all Egyptians prevails. May God help you achieve the best for our beloved homeland and noble country.

Changes in Government, Armed Forces Announced

New Cabinet

NC131126 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—The composition of the new government under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi was announced today. Here is Republican Decree 428 for the year 1987, promulgating the new government:

Dr 'Atif Muhammad Najib Sidqi, prime minister and minister of international cooperation.

Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production.

Dr Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Dr Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning.

Dr Yusuf Amin Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

Dr Amal 'Abd al-Rahim 'Uthman, minister of insurance and social affairs.

Eng Hasaballah Muhammad al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities, and new urban communities.

Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Eng Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport.

Eng Muhammad Mahir 'Uthman Abazah, minister of electricity and energy.

Dr Eng Jamal al-Sayyid Abrahim, minister of state for war production.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Radwan, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.

Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information.

Eng 'Isam Radi 'Abd al-Hamid Radi, minister of works and water resources.

Eng Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of industry.

Chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Muhammad Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral rsources.

Dr 'Atif Muhammad 'Ubayd, minister of Cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development.

Fu'ad 'Abd al-Latif Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation.

Zaki Mustafa Adr, minister of interior.

Dr Muhammad Jalal Abu al-Dhahab, minsiter of supply and internal strade.

Dr 'Adil 'Abd al-Hamid 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research.

Dr Muhammd Raghib Duwaydar, minister of health.

Dr Yusri 'Ali Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade.

Dr Ahmad Salamah Muhammad, minister for People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.

Dr Ahmad Fathi Surur, minister of education.

Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz, minister of finance.

Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, minister of Awqaf.

'Asim 'Abd al-Haq Salih, minister of manpower and training.

Counselor Faruq Sayf al-Nasr, minister of justice.

Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation.

Dr Fu'ad Iskandar, minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad.

Faruq Husni, minister of culture.

Supreme Court Head Appointed

NC131324 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—[Passage omitted] President Husni Mubarak issued a republican decree today appointing Counsellor Mamduh Mustafa Hasan head of the Supreme Constitutional Court, with the rank of minister. [Passage omitted]

Navy, Air Commanders Appointed

NC131426 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has issued a decree pensioning off Vice Admiral 'Ali Muhammad Tawfiq Jad as of 13 October 1987 on the expiry of his legal term of service.

He appointed Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif Muhammad al-Sadiq commander of the Naval Forces as of today, 13 October 1987.

The president issued a decree appointing Vice Admiral Muhammad Tawfiq Jad, retired, chairman of the board of the Arab Shipping Company.

President Mubarak also issued a decree pensioning off Staff Lieutenant General 'Adil 'Ali Khalil, commander of the Air Defense Forces, due to the expiry of his legal term of office. He also issued a republican decree appointing Staff Major General Mustafa Ahmad al-Shadhili commander of the Air Defense Forces as of today, 13 October 1987.

In addition, he issued a republican decree appointing Staff Rear Admiral Ahmad al-Sayyid Humaydah chief of staff of the Naval Forces as of 14 October 1987, and appointing Major General Zahir Habib 'Abd al-Rahman chief of staff of the Air Defense Forces as of today, 13 October 1987.

Background on Military Chiefs

NC131422 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif Muhammad al-Sadiq, the new commander of the Naval Forces, was born in Cairo in 1936. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1956, and has pursued higher studies in the Soviet Union and France. He graduated from the Higher War College in 1981. The rear admiral has held several positions, including: commander of the brigade of landing crafts; chief of the Naval Operations Department; and chief of staff of the Naval Forces.

Major General Mustafa al-Shadhili, new commander of the Air Defense Forces, was born in Cairo in 1934. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1955, and has held several leading positions, including: commander of the rocket brigade in 1973; commander of an air defense division; chief of the Combat Training Department; assistant commander of the Air Defense Forces; chief of the Air Defense Operations Department; and chief of staff of the Air Defense Forces. Maj Gen al-Shadhili is a graduate of the Higher War College of Nasir Military Academy.

It should be recalled that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree appointing Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif Muhammad al-Sadiq as commander of the Naval Forces, and Maj Gen Mustafa Ahmad al-Shadhili as commander of the Air Defense Forces.

Assistant Defense Minister Named

NC131516 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has issued a republican decree appointing Staff Lieutenant General 'Adil Khalil assistant defense minister. He was formerly commander of the Air Defense Forces. [Passage omitted]

Background on Chief of Staff

NC131413 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, the new chief of staff of the Armed Forces, graduated from the Military college a few days after the July 1952 revolution. Throughout his career he has worked in the Infantry Corps. The new Armed Forces chief of staff also participated in the 1956 and 1967 wars.

Lt-Gen Abu Shinaf occupied the post of chief of the Reconnaissance Department and later was deputy director of military intelligence. He then assumed the position of division commander in the 2d Field Army before being promoted to chief of staff of the 2d Army. The lieutenant-general assumed overall command of the 2d Army in 1984.

Lt-Gen Abu Shinaf chaired the Egyptian Military Committee that held meetings with Israel. He also raised the Egyptian flag over more than one position in Sinai following the Israeli withdrawal. Up to last July the new chief of staff was chairman of the Organization and Administration Department. After that, he was appointed assistant to the chief of staff of the Armed Forces, a position he held until his appointment to chief of staff.

Lt-Gen Abu Shinaf was born in Al-Minya Governorate. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Meets Mubarak, Departs

NC131454 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, stopped over at Cairo airport this morning for a brief visit to Egypt. He congratulated President Husni Mubarak on his election for a second term of office as president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The distinguished Sudanese guest was received at Cairo airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who escorted him to the president's rest house.

Also on hand at the airport to receive Al-Mirghani were Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr 'Abd al-Ahad Jamal al-Din, chairman of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports; and Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the Public Information Authority.

Al-Mirghani made this stopover while on his way to Bucharest for a 7-day official visit to Romania. He is accompanied by Ma'mun Sanadan, Sudanese foreign minister [title as received]; Youth Minister Hasan Muhammad Mustafa; and General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Mirghani said he had come to Egypt specifically to congratulate President Mubarak for gaining the Egyptian peoples' confidence, and also to praise the Egyptian people for their sound judgment in supporting President Mubarak for a second term. He added that with his expertise and wisdom, President Mubarak is perfectly qualified to lead the drive for prosperity and development. The Sudanese State Council chairman added: We have come with congratulations from your brothers in Sudan.

When asked to reveal what he had discussed with President Mubarak, Al-Mirghani disclosed that the discussion covered almost all topics. In this connection, he noted that their views were identical. He added: God willing, we are on the right track.

When asked how Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are developing in light of President Mubarak's efforts in this respect, Al-Mirghani said that Sudan is grateful for the great efforts which President Mubarak has exerted to reconcile problems between Sudan and Ethiopia. He added that a number of meetings will be held soon to facilitate reconciliation.

Al-Mirghani disclosed that the purpose of his visit to Romania is in response to an invitation from the Romanian president and falls within the framework of the existing relations between the two countries.

When asked whether a compromise has been reached to form a new Sudanese government, Al-Mirghani said there is full agreement on the need to settle this issue.

UAE Presidential Envoy Arrives for Visit

NC111542 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, under secretary in the UAE Foreign Ministry and the UAE president's son, arrived in Cairo from Abu Dhabi this afternoon for a 1-day visit.

Upon his arrival, the UAE official disclosed that he brings with him a verbal message from his father, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to President Husni Mubarak, congratulating him on his reelection for a second term in office. Al Nuhayyan added that the message also deals with the situation in the Gulf and the region.

Meets Mubarak; Conveys Message

NC111902 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak received Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE Foreign Ministry under secretary this evening. Al Nuhayyan arrived in Cairo earlier today for a 1-day visit. [Passage omitted]

Ugandan President Makes Stopover, Meets Mubarak
NC111549 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni arrived at Cairo Airport this afternoon, where he was received by President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

Immediately after his arrival, the Ugandan president and President Husni Mubarak held talks in the presence of Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr Yusuf Wali. Following the talks, the Ugandan president departed. He was seen off by President Husni Mubarak, Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and Dr Yusuf Wali.

PRC Leaders Cable Mubarak on Reelection
NC131002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the following cable of congratulations from PRC President Li Xiannian and State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang:

On the occasion of your reelection as president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on behalf of the government and people of the People's Republic of China, and in our own names it pleases us to express to Your Excellency our warmest heartfelt congratulations. During the past 6 years, under your wise leadership and through the Egyptian people's perseverance, Egypt has achieved splendid accomplishments in the political, economic, diplomatic, and various other fields. We are confident that you will achieve even greater success in bolstering stability and domestic unity, developing the national economy, and contributing to the cause of regional and international peace during your tenure as president.

We are confident that the excellent friendly relations between our countries and our existing cooperation will witness further development. We hope friendship and cooperation between China and Egypt will grow stronger.

'Abd al-Majid on Palestinians, Peace Process
PM121331 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Sep 87 p 22

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by 'Abd al-Latif al-Minawi in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Minawi] What, in your view, are the main contours of the Egyptian position on the issue of peace in the Middle East?

['Abd al-Majid] We consider Resolution 242 to be the starting point for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question because that resolution includes fundamental settlement principles which I will refer to in my UN speech.

[Al-Minawi] Has agreement been reached on a formula for PLO recognition of Resolution 242 at the UN General assembly?

['Abd al-Majid] One should take note of the recent statements made by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during the Geneva conference of nongovernmental organizations on the Middle East. The PLO chairman reaffirmed his recognition of the UN resolutions on the Middle East and the Palestinian question, including Resolutions 242 and 338. There can be no doubt that that statement was a positive step.

[Al-Minawi] Do you still believe that Palestinian representation is the sole major obstacle to an international peace conference?

['Abd al-Majid] Palestinian representation is not the sole major obstacle. The main difficulty, in fact, is the internal divisions in Israel. As known, in September 1986 President Mubarak secured the Israeli prime minister's approval of the idea of an international conference as the only practical solution available. Since that day the idea has been gaining more ground and momentum.

The U.S. Administration's position has changed, from opposition to the idea to nonrefusal to discuss the details and mechanism of an international conference. At one stage in the past, both the United States and Israel were calling for direct negotiations.

The EC states have unequivocally supported the idea of an international conference and so have the Eastern camp states, the nonaligned states, and the OAU states. We are now in a race with time before the U.S. presidential election campaign and, possibly, Israeli elections overtake us.

[Al-Minawi] So where among the obstacles preventing a conference would you place the problem of Palestinian representation?

['Abd al-Majid] Palestinian representation at the conference is one of the main issues raised but it cannot be described as the main obstacle. Egypt's position on this matter is frank and clear. It is, briefly, that it is inconceivable that an international conference on the Middle East problem could be held without tackling the Palestinian question which is central to the conflict. Palestinians chosen by the PLO should attend and participate in such a conference.

[Al-Minawi] After President Mubarak's departure from Addis Ababa, where he held two meetings with 'Arafat, you stayed behind and you held a meeting with 'Arafat. What happened at that meeting?

['Abd al-Majid] President Mubarak did indeed meet with 'Arafat. During my lengthy meeting with him we discussed what could be done to support the Palestinian cause at the current UN session. On the Palestinian issue, we act within our capabilities. Egypt talks to all sides without difficulty. My meeting with 'Arafat was a continuation of the contacts made by the president.

[Al-Minawi] Is Egypt working for a new Palestinian-Jordanian agreement?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt is in favor of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination. This has always been our policy. We continuously hold contacts with PLO leaders on the one hand and with King Husayn and Jordanian officials on the other. We bless any step which enhances coordination and cooperation between the PLO and Jordan.

[Al-Minawi] How do you assess the results of UN Secretary General Peres de Cuellar's mission to Iraq and Iran?

['Abd al-Majid] That mission failed because of Iran's intransigence. There are signs of Iranian intransigence and an Iraqi response.

[Al-Minawi] What are the dimensions of Egypt's mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia, and how willing are the parties concerned?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt has a vested interest in peace and stability. Sudan is a fraternal country and our links with it are only too obvious. We are constantly concerned for its security, stability, unity, and territorial integrity. Egyptian-Ethiopian relations are as old as history itself and are governed by African fraternity and joint efforts in the common and legitimte interests of nations. The fact that the president himself headed the Egyptian delegation to the celebrations marking the Ethiopian Republic's anniversary is evidence of that.

It is only natural that Egypt is interested in seeing cooperation and good-neighborliness between the states with which it has common borders or which are in the same region. Egypt spares no effort to create the right atmosphere between Khartoum and Addis Ababa so that the leaders of both countries could discuss, with mutual trust, issues of mutual interest in favor of the African people in Ethiopia and Sudan. A meeting between the Sudanese prime minister and the Ethiopian president is anticipated, and we hope they will reach an agreement in the interest of the two peoples and of stability in the entire region.

Abu Ghazalah on Military Strategy, Maneuvers

NC101317 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has asserted that Egyptian military strategy is based on two principles: deterrence and strategic balance.

There are three requirements for deterrence, he added: possession of military force capable of serving as a deterrent; the ability to convince neighboring parties which may be a potential threat to us that we possess that power; and, finally, our conviction that we will use this capability if necessary.

In an interview with Cairo radio broadcast last night, Abu Ghazalah noted that strategic balance leads to further stability and affords more opportunities for peace. Egypt neither desires nor seeks to become involved in the arms race which is in progress in the region, and this is Egypt's firm policy, he declared.

Commenting on the lessons learned from the October war, Abu Ghazalah said this war was the first in which guided anti-aircraft missiles had been used to neutralize an enemy's air force and that these missiles had proved to be a considerable success. He added that this war was also the first in which guided anti-tank rockets had been put to the test and that these rockets had been largely successful in destroying a great number of tanks.

The October war, he added, was significant because it fully demonstrated the advantages of using combined forces. Abu Ghazalah went on to say that the Armed Forces understand the lessons of this war and have benefited from them. He pointed to the Armed Forces' high level of training programs, morale, and armaments. He said that the Armed Forces absorb the lessons and profit from them and avoid all mistakes.

With regard to the benefits that the Egyptian military derives from joint exercises with Arab and friendly countries, Abu Ghazalah said such benefits are immeasurable. Within this context, he added that whenever maneuvers are conducted with any friendly country, the Egyptians decide the type of experience they want to acquire and determine the timing, content, and locations of these maneuvers.

Abu Ghazalah said: We supervise and assess these maneuvers; at least 90 percent of the effort is ours. He noted that both sides benefit from such exercises but the benefit to us is immeasurable. He asserted: We are quite ready to conduct joint exercises with any party.

On Egypt's policy of military industrialization, Abu Ghazalah said it is proceeding perfectly, noting that Egypt has advanced industries in the fields of aviation, artillery, small arms, munitions, armor, and electronic

warfare. Egypt, he added, has entered an era of modern technology and acquired an advanced military industrial base. He pointed out that an international fair will be held in Cairo in November to exhibit all the products of the arsenal of Egyptian military industry.

Abu Ghazalah said: Military industry in Egypt is not something that has come about suddenly. Rather, it is the result of a long process of planning to ensure that we could produce and bear the cost. As we had chosen the correct path in terms of national priorities and the goals of Egyptian military ideology, our military industry has the opportunity to supply our defense requirements.

Speaking of the Armed Forces' strategy on construction, civil works, and military townships in particular, Abu Ghazalah said the development of the Armed Forces is based on three principles: the individual's morale, military equipment, and the defense policy. I have spoken of defense policy, Egyptian military strategy, and the progress of Egyptian military production, he noted. He emphasized that the morale of the individual represents the most important aspect of the combat capabilities of any Armed Forces.

In conclusion, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah pointed out that the individual's morale and his life in society are inseparable, affirming the need to provide a dignified life for officers and men.

Navy Commander on Minesweeper Purchases

NC091520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 9 Oct (MENA)—Naval Forces Commander Vice Admiral 'Ali Tawfiq Jad has announced that Egypt has concluded a deal to purchase modern minesweepers and that efforts to obtain the funds needed to conclude the deal are under way. The minesweepers we currently possess are being upgraded for compatibility with the minesweepers being purchased, to ensure the availability of a complete defense system against mines, he added.

The Naval Forces commander pointed out that Egypt has obtained some Chinese advanced submarines, frigates, submarine hunters, and patrol ships, along with some very advanced British torpedoes.

Jad reported on this in an exclusive interview with MENA's military affairs reporter 'Adil 'Abd al-'Aziz. In his interview, Vice Admiral Jad denied reports that some of the mines planted in the Gulf have reached the Red Sea and the Suez Canal where they were detonated by Egyptian minesweepers. He pointed out that there are some mines in these waterways that have been there since October 1973, but the Naval Forces are clearing them in accordance with specific plans.

When asked whether Alexandria Port docks are being developed for use to service U.S. ships, Vice Admiral Jad said we turn to the Americans for upgrading technical services in the Naval Forces. In this respect, a deal has been concluded to purchase a mobile crane with a 5,000-ton capacity for use in servicing the naval units. Had we been thinking about providing services for the U.S. Navy, we would have procured a crane with a much higher capacity, he noted. [Passage omitted]

Vice Admiral Jad was then asked about the Egyptian Navy's position on the struggle and competition between the superpowers in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, as well as the rising power of naval forces of some other countries, in light of the Egyptian coast on those two seas extending to more than 2,000 km.

The Naval Forces commander said that our strategy is based on the principle of positive defense. According to this tenet, we make sure that the tasks assigned to our Naval Forces are confined to defending our shores, whether at ports, populous areas, petroleum and industrial sites, or the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Suez, which are two international waterways. [Passage omitted]

When asked if the Egyptian Navy's share of U.S. military assistance to Egypt has diminished, Vice Admiral Jad said it has to some extent, because the U.S. Navy's strategy depends on relatively large ships that require large crews. He noted that our Navy does not need such large ships, which become a huge burden. In addition, Egypt's current economic situation does not allow us to acquire more than what we need for our defense capabilities. Furthermore, most U.S. naval units are nuclear-operated, which is not suitable for us. [Passage omitted]

Referendum Results Sign of 'Dictatorship'

JN112124 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Oct 87 p 3

[Article by Dr Ibrahim Dasuqi Abazah: "We Have One Solace"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] What has happened is not lamentable: We have been plagued with dictatorship ever since the presidency was renewed by referendum, forcing on the people an unopposed candidate. Since the 'Abd al-Nasir era, through Al-Sadat, to Mubarak, the style has not changed, although the climate has. Nothing has changed despite all the talk about democracy, freedom and the multi-party system.

Yet the interior minister boasted that the yes vote for President Mubarak was 97 percent out of the valid ballots, with the media singing the praises of the results which no one believed. To cite just two reasons: First in any election anywhere in the world the invalid ballots make up 5 percent regardless of how many are cast. What if the referendum takes place in a country where illiteracy is as high as 75 percent! It just does not stand to reason that the invalid ballots over and above the no votes were only 3 percent!! Second, not one head of state in a democracy has won so massively, or even 20 percent short of that percentage, except the beloved President Kim il-Sung of North Korea.

Granted we have come a long way in the democratic process. The vote in favor of another presidential term has slipped back from 99.9 percent in the eras of Nabawi Isma'il and Abu Basha to 97 percent in the era of Zaki Badr. Organizers of the referendum are indeed to be commended for being so generous!! This is because if it were not for such a result no one would have believed that there is democracy in Egypt!!

Esteemed organizers of the referendum at the Presidency: Not one infant in Egypt can believe what you are doing and saying. A referendum on the presidency is abhorrent and the people reject it. The referendum has had no appeal, neither during the Mubarak regime nor in the Al-Sadat and 'Abd al-Nasir eras, for the simple reason that people feel that it is pointless to cast ballots. It would have served a purpose had there been a choice between two or more candidates.

Such determination to insure that President Mubarak win by such a large margin can only mean a resolve on the part of the regime to tighten its grip on the people in the next presidential term. This seems logical; a progressively deteriorating economy coupled with a failure to rectify the situation make the possibility of lifting subsidies ever present and a showdown with the broad masses a virtual certainty. Hence the need for increased powers to invoke repression and oppression in the name of overwhelming popular support!!

Only in these terms can one explain this desperate insistence to portary a unanimity on renewal for President Mubarak. NDP activists and supporters must be looking ahead apprehensively and questioning the regime's ability to handle the future without resorting to repressive and appressive measures. They need the prop of a "legitimate" unanimity on returning the president, never mind if the unanimity is only formal!! To repeat myself: Our solace is one. Adversity has brought us together for all our differences of opinion and different leanings.

Libya

'Mercenaries' 'on Alert' on Southern Border

LD131809 Tripoli JANA in English 1714 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Paris, Al-Tumur [October] 13, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—News emanating from Paris has disclosed that a force comprising 2,500 mercenaries have been placed on alert confronting the southern borders of Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

This news points out that these mercenaries have been amassed near the two areas of Tekro and Zoure.

Leader on Children's Deaths in Gulf War

LD140923 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Oct (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution made the following statement to JANA: "I express my deep sorrow over the killing of innocent schoolchildren in Iraq and Iran as schoolchildren have become the victims of vengeance on both sides. This is an act that Islam, Arabism, and conscience do not accept. The war has reached its lowest level."

Leader Receives Message From UK Church Head

LD140906 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Oct (JANA)—Robert Runcie, the archbishop of Canterbury, has sent a message to the brother leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. He has expressed his appreciation for the brother leader of the revolution's concern for the fate of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared in Beirut last year.

The message also says that any steps taken to secure Terry Waite's safe return would be greatly appreciated by the Church of England, by the British people in general, and by members of the Anglican Church throughout the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Ready To End Sri Lanka 'Massacre'

LD141014 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0953 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Oct (JANA)—The brother leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution has expressed his deep sorrow over the massacre of innocent people in Sri Lanka and at the killing of tens of innocent Muslims who were caught unaware.

The brother leader of the revolution said in a statement to JANA: "We deplore the massacres that Tamils have been subjected to as a result of clashes with Indian troops."

The brother leader of the revolution has also expressed his readiness to make any effort to end this massacre and said: "I am prepared to undertake any action to protect the lives of innocent people and end the massacre among the Tamils, the Indians, and the Sinhalese."

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Makes Sanadah New Foreign Minister

LD111218 Khartoum SUNA in English 1047 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 11 (SUNA)—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi issued a decree today appointing Dr. Ma'mun Sanadah as foreign minister. Dr. Sanadah, who is the former minister of culture and information, will swear in before the State Council the few coming days. Dr. Sanadah replaces in his new office the former minister of

foreign affairs, Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad who resigned following the break off of coalition between his party, the Democratic Unionist Party and the Umma Party of Premier al-Mahdi.

Al-Mahdi, Delegation Depart for Visit to Japan
LD111220 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 11 (SUNA)—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the accompanying delegation left here today for Tokyo on a week-long official visit to Japan. Al-Mahdi said in a statement before his departure that the visit aims at laying down a new framework for the relations between the two countries on the purpose of benefiting from the Japanese experience particularly in the fields of technology and development. Ministers of commerce, labour and social welfare are acompaning Al-Mahdi besides representatives from other ministries.

New Government Expected on Al-Mahdi's Return
JN121048 Khartoum SUNA in English 1012 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 12 (SUNA)—Formation of the new government will be announced after the return of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi from Japan, Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" leader Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani said yesterday. Al-Mirghani confirmed that consultations between the co-ruling parties and the other political entities participating in the government will continue during that period so as to reach consensus on formation of the new government. He said the two parties had agreed after a meeting held yesterday by leaders of the two parties to form a joint committee to negotiate with the other political parties on formation of the government.

State Council Member Taj al-Din Interviewed
PM121549 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Sep 87 p 11

[Interview with State Council Member 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Hisham] Many people believe that Sudan's foreign policy is facing numerous problems because it has not lived up to the new regime's expectations. Some diplomats complain that the Foreign Ministry has been muzzled and relegated to a merely bureaucratic and honorary role. What is your reply?

[Taj al-Din] Sudan was one of the first African states to achieve independence; its diplomatic corps had been exemplary, but former President Ja'far Numayri erased all that over the past 16 years and took control of the Foreign Ministry. Sudan's foreign policy was founded on blocs and on strategic and security alignments with countries that helped Numayri's regime survive. He sowed the seeds of rift with such neighbors as Ethiopia and Libya. I believe that a country like Sudan, which has an Afro-Arab identity, nine neighbors, and encompasses 2.5 million square kilometers, can only protect itself diplomatically because of the difficulty of doing so by military means. That is why we made plans to solve our foreign problems. I have visited a number of African states and we have opened embassies in some.

[Hisham] What has the Egyptian mediation between you and Ethiopia achieved, and what are the reactions of the various parties?

[Taj al-Din] When Chairman Haile Mariam Mengistu visited Cairo, President Husni Mubarak made great efforts to pave the way for Sudanese-Ethiopian reconciliation. When Mengistu returned home he sent his information minister to Khartoum with an invitation for [Prime Minister] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to attend the Ethiopian Republic's anniversary celebrations. However, because of Sudan's circumstances at the time, Al-Mahdi sent a message with his industry minister apologizing for not being able to attend and stressing that a high-ranking delegation would attend the celebrations. I headed that delegation. During the visit I met with the Ethiopian chairman. President Mubarak had earlier met with him to pave the way for my meeting with him. The efforts made by the Egyptian president played a major part in the success of my mission. I discussed bilateral relations very frankly and clearly with the Ethiopian leader. My meeting with him was very successful. The coming period will witness an exchange of high-level visits to settle the issues still pending with Ethiopia.

[Hisham] It has been said that Al-Mahdi will meet with Mengistu. Did you discuss that, and did you agree on any particular measures to improve relations between the two countries?

[Taj al-Din] Yes, it was agreed that Al-Mahdi and Mengistu will meet within the next 2 months, but first there are certain things which Sudan and Ethiopia must do. A number of committees will make the necessary preparations for the meeting to ensure its success and to ensure that it removes all past accumulations [of problems] between the two countries. This is because we want full relations with Ethiopia.

[Hisham] Was the Egyptian move confined to Sudanese-Ethiopian relations or did it extend to the "Sudanese People's Liberation Movement" [SPLM]?

[Taj al-Din] I do not believe it did.

[Hisham] Did you have any contacts with the movement during your recent visit to Ethiopia, and why?

[Taj al-Din] We did not have any contacts with the movement, for many reasons. One reason is that the movement's [representatives] were not in Addis Ababa during the celebrations. We also blame the movement for not responding to political peace initiatives. I want to emphasize that the

door to peace will remain open because this issue can only be resolved through dialogue. I would have met with John Garang [SPLM leader] immediately and without any hesitation if he had asked to meet with me in Addis Ababa and if he had something to say.

[Hisham] The Sudanese role in the Libya-Chad conflict is causing some controversy because of Chad's repeated allegations that there are Libyan forces in Darfur Province in western Sudan, and Sudan's open support for Libya's rights in the Aozou Strip. What point has the Sudanese initiative reached?

[Taj al-Din] Sudan, especially in the west, has clearly been affected by the instability in Chad. As a result of the Chadian-Chadian and Chadian-Libyan armed conflict, some Chadian groups infiltrated Darfur Province and formed armed robbery gangs which threaten the province's stability. Furthermore, there are about 350,000 Chadian refugees in Sudan at present engaging in smuggling and illegal border trade. That is why Sudan embarked on its initiative from December 1986 to March 1987. It succeeded in bringing about a cease-fire at the beginning of March. A Libyan-Chadian meeting was held in Khartoum, but the sides could not agree. Sudan's efforts to bring about an end to the war did not stop there. We were happy when Libya and Chad finally agreed to a cease-fire under OAU supervision.

The OAU will combine all the initiatives made by Algeria, Niger, Nigeria, Congo-Brazaville, and Sudan. With regard to Sudan's support for Libya's right to the Aozou Strip, available maps confirm that territory is Libyan, in accordance with the Laval-Mussolini Rome agreement of 15 January 1935. When Sudan embarked on its initiative I wrote a letter to Chadian President Hissein Habre confirming that and appealing to him to let Aozou be the price of peace.

[Hisham] What is your answer to the claim, also made by Chad, that there are Libyan forces in western Sudan?

[Taj al-Din] At one time there were about 700 Libyan soldiers in Darfur Province. I personally supervised their departure. The Chadian brothers are concerned about their eastern borders with Sudan and believe that, because of our good relations with Libya, we might grant it military facilities. However, international charters, Sudan's foreign policy, and Sudan's strategic position make the use of Sudanese territory against neighboring Chad an impossibility.

I spoke to the Chadian foreign minister when he was in Sudan recently, about the repeated statements by Chadian officials concerning the presence of Libyan forces in western Sudan. The minister of state for defense was with me at the time. I emphasized to him that there was a plane ready to take him at any time to the area of the Libyan presence [as published]. The Chadian minister laughed and said, "We are only doing that for strategic reasons." I replied: That harms Sudan and its reputation abroad and undermines your own credibility.

Al-Mirghani in Romania for 7-Day Visit

For Bucharest media reports of the visit to Romania by 'Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Sudan, including reportage of his talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, see the Romanian section of the 14 October *East Europe Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Liberian Oil Tanker Attacked Near Dubai 14 Oct

JN140810 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] In London, Lloyds of London officials said that the Liberian oil tanker *Atlantic Peace* was attacked this morning by an Iranian speedboat—according to *Reuter*—in the southern part of the Gulf opposite Dubai. It appears that the oil tanker did not sustain any damage as a result of the attack.

UK Flotilla Finds Mine in Gulf of Oman

LD131312 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1233 GMT 13 Oct 87

[By Charles Miller, *Press Association* defence correspondent]

[Text] The Royal Navy minehunter *HMS Brecon* today discovered a mine while operating off Al-Fujayrah in the Gulf of Oman.

It is the first mine to be found by the flotilla of four minehunters since they arrived in the area last month.

The mine, which was spotted on the seabed in about 100 metres of water, is believed to be an old-fashioned contact mine.

Navy experts believe the mine had failed to separate from its sinker, from which a cable extends to keep it floating just under the surface.

The Navy was not immediately able to identify the mine, although it is likely to be of the same type as those captured recently by the Americans.

The four minehunters, *Recon*, *Bicester*, *Brocklesby* and *Hurworth*, have been sweeping for mines around the anchorages off Al-Fujayrah for the past few days.

They are operating with the two French minesweepers in the area, which have already found several mines.

Today's discovery was made by the *Brecon's* sophisticated sonar equipment in a routine check after a conventional sweep of the area.

The ship's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Stephen Gobey, sent down a remotely controlled mini-submarine—known as the *Pap 104*—to confirm it was a mine with its on-board television camera.

It was decided the waters were too deep at that point to send down divers.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "It is now planned to destroy the mine where it is with an explosive charge placed by the mini-submarine."

GCC Interior Ministers Meet in Abu Dhabi

JN131303 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] The opening session of the sixth GCC interior ministers' meeting was held at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel at 1030 today. Hammuda bin 'Ali al-Dhuhiri, UAE minister of state for internal affairs, chaired the opening meeting.

In his speech, Minister Hammuda bin 'Ali welcomed the interior ministers and conveyed the greetings of the Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president. His excellency expressed the hope that the session will achieve the ministers' common objectives for the sake of the GCC countries' well-being, security, and stability.

Speaking about the accomplishments so far attained, especially approval of the comprehensive security strategy, Minister Hammuda bin 'Ali stated: Despite the ground that we have so far covered in the field of mutual cooperation, we are still called upon to achieve more. The minister said the UAE is determined to participate in any endeavor that bolsters joint action and achieves security and stability.

'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the GCC, then thanked the UAE president, government, and people for the warm welcome and excellent preparations for this meeting. He noted that current developments in the region have added to the significance of today's meeting, stating: The world nations are observing with admiration the GCC's efforts to achieve internal security and stability. He added that the GCC countries have tackled security matters in a mature manner and have also demonstrated great ability to confront violence and terrorism, thanks to the existing cooperation and continuous contacts within the GCC. All this, he said, underscores the sense of belonging and importance of internal security within the GCC.

1st Session Concludes

JN131704 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 13 (GNA)—Interior ministers of the six-nation Cooperation Council for Arab Gulf states (GCC) ended their first working session here today under the chairmanship of Major General Hammuda bin 'Ali minister of state for interior affairs.

The ministers' three-hour session discussed a number of security related issues presented by the conference's preparatory committee.

The ministers will hold their second working session this evening to complete discussions on the items of the working agenda.

Ministers To Adopt Items

LD132239 Kuwait KUNA in English 1940 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 13 (KUNA)—Interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states concluded here tonight the second session of their sixth conference.

Meeting sources told KUNA that the ministers have covered the greatest portion of their agenda during today's two sessions and will resume their third meeting Wednesday morning.

The ministers will adopt a number of recommendations tomorrow which will be later on referred to the 8th GCC Summit in Riyadh.

Kuwait

USSR Envoy Denies Reports on Iran Relations

Kuwait KUNA in English 1615 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 12 (KUNA)—The Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev Monday dismissed press reports on development of the Soviet-Iranian bilateral relations as "inaccurate" stressing his country's friendship with the Arab states.

Speaking to reporters, while seeing off the Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah who left for Moscow today, the ambassador said some Arab newspapers including the Kuwaiti ones have been reporting that the Soviet Union is developing its relations with Iran as "if it is against developing the Arab-Soviet relations".

Pointing to the Soviet-Iranian economic relations since the shah times, the Soviet ambassador denied that such relations are undergoing any rapproachment, noting that "the press uproar over such relations is more bigger than what is real".

The ambassador pointed that the level of economic and trade cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iran has decreased since the outbreaks of the war noting the Soviet Union is suffering from the ongoing war because the amount of joint economic cooperation with both Iraq and Iran has dropped.

On the Soviet stance toward the Iraq-Iran war, the ambassador stressed that his country still calls for finding an immediate end to the war and transfering it to the stage of peaceful solutions.

Over the Sixth Article of the United Nation's Resolutions 598 to determine [responsibility for] the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war by a neutral committee, Zverev said since the Soviet Union participated in formulating the resolution, therefore "we support such an article".

Asked if Kuwait has requested chartering more Soviet oil tankers in addition to the present three, Zverev said Kuwait has not made new requests, announcing that the Soviet Union will study such requests should Kuwait make them.

Referring to the Kuwaiti step to charter the Soviet ships, the Soviet ambassador said it was a commercial matter.

PDRY

Al-'Attas, 'Ali Nasir Reportedly Meet

JN101650 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 9 Oct 87 p 9

[From "News of the Week" feature]

[Text] Reliable Yemeni sources affirmed that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih recently succeeded in effecting a meeting between PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The meeting occurred at 1800 on Monday, 28 September, at the home of President Salih.

The meeting was attended by Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the PDRY defense minister, the PDRY minister of unity affairs, and two senior YSP members. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was accompanied by the former state security minister and three former members of the YSP leadership.

It was said that this meeting was preceded by another meeting confined to President Salih, President al-'Attas, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. They discussed Al-'Attas' recent amnesty decision. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was of the opinion that the decision was not sufficient to effect national reconciliation and President Salih supported this view.

In the second meeting, which all sides attended, the issue of national reconciliation was discussed. Discussions indicated that the present PDRY leadership rejects the conditions for national reconciliation presented by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad—conditions which stipulate the return of displaced persons to their jobs and party positions in the PDRY.

Former Leader's Trial Expected Soon

PM131401 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 87 p 1

['Ali Nun report: "Southern Yemeni Sources to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*: No Reconciliation With 'Ali Nasir"]

[Text] London, *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* Bureau— Well-informed political sources in the PDRY yesterday informed *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* of a supposedly "final decision" taken by Aden's leadership regarding former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 48 of his followers, namely that reconciliation is not at all in the cards and

that this decision is final. The sources indicated that Aden's prosecutor general has already decided to hold these persons responsible for the bloody incidents of January 1986 and that they will shortly be tried in absentia.

The sources refused to discuss any alternatives to the decision made by Aden's political leadership concerning the former president and his followers. However, they at the same time ruled out the possibility of any developments of security significance occurring as a result of this.

They said that with the exception of those accused, those who left prior to and following the January incidents (these persons are limited in number) can return to the southern part, since they will be guaranteed their constitutional and legal rights in full and will be helped to resume their various activities.

Aden sources in this context told *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* that the special amnesty decision, on the basis of which those remaining outside [the country] were invited to return with the exception of 'Ali Nasir and his 48 followers, has been extended until the end of next December. The sources stressed that this period is sufficient to settle the situation for those seeking this.

These sources, however, refused to answer a question concerning steps that the PDRY leadership will take after that date. They said that despite everything, "these are Yemenis living on Yemen's soil."

The sources, without being certain, expected proceedings of the current trials in Aden of 93 defendants held by the prosecutor general to be responsible for the January 1986 incidents to end shortly. The sources said that a delegation representing Amnesty International, which previously attended some sessions with the Arab Lawyers Federation delegation at the civil court chaired by Judge Dr Mustafa 'Abd al-Khaliq, will attend the final sessions. The sources consider that "their attendance constitutes a rare precedent in the Third World."

The sources said that after this trial ends, an in absentia trial of the former president and his 48 followers will begin in the presence of the Amnesty International delegation. They expected the trial to commence in the very near future, probably within 2 weeks or so.

Al-Bid Chairs Political Bureau Meeting

EA122116 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] The YSP Central Committee Political Bureau held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the party's Central Committee. The Political Bureau considered a number of subjects on its agenda and devoted considerable time to discussing the Aden refinery. The discussion stressed the need to give great attention to developing this important economic facility, particularly following the discovery of oil in Democratic Yemen.

The Political Bureau stressed the need to support this economic utility and give priority to projects dealing with developing production units to ensure their increased effectiveness and improve the economics of their operation. It also stressed the need to formulate a long-term plan for implementing future modernization and expansion projects.

YAR President Sends Anniversary Greetings

EA141006 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee; Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; and the brother members of the Political Bureau have received a congratulatory cable from Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the [Yemen Arab] Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, on the 24th anniversary of the glorious 14th October Revolution. Here is the text of the message:

I am pleased to convey to you and to our brothers in the southern part, on my own behalf and on behalf of your brothers in the northern part of the homeland, our warmest congratulations and best wishes on the 24th anniversary of the glorious 14 October Revolution against British colonialism in the southern part of the homeland. This revolution came as a natural continuation and extension of the immortal 26 September Revolution, which destroyed forever the priestly rule of the imam in the northern part of the homeland.

Our Yemeni people, who have made costly sacrifices to gain their freedom, achieve their goals, and realize their ambitions, are capable of making further sacrifices for reunifying Yemen, which is the noblest aim of the masses of our people in both parts of the homeland. On this occasion we reiterate our determination to work for the achievement of this noble aim [words indistinct] to achieve strong Yemeni unity [words indistinct].

May you be well every year.

Saudi Arabia

King Receives U.S. Official, Reagan Note

LD132102 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from His Excellency Ronald Reagan, the president of the United States. The message

was conveyed to the king by John Herrington, the U.S. secretary of energy, when the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received Herrington at his office at Al-Salam Palace today.

The meeting was attended by Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, adviser at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources; and Hume Horan, the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

Pakistani President Arrives on Pilgrimage

Arrives in Jeddah

LD111651 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 11 Oct (SPA)—His Excellency Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq arrived this afternoon in Jeddah to carry out the minor pilgrimage and to visit the Prophet's Mosque. [Passage omitted]

Received by King Fahd

LD122235 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2124 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 12 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God support him, met with His Excellency Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan, at Al-Salam Palace this evening.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; and His Excellency Dr Fayiz Badr, the minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the General Ports Establishment, and the Saudi minister appointed to attend on Ziaul Haq.

On the Pakistani side, the meeting was attended by His Excellency Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the foreign minister; His Excellency Chaudhury Shujat Hussain, the minister of industries and production; and (Wali Allah Khan Hishqi), the under secretary at the Foreign Ministry.

Departs 13 Oct

LD131642 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1027 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 13 Oct (SPA)—Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq departed Jeddah before noon today for home after performing the minor pilgrimage and visiting the Prophet's Mosque. He also met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Accepts Summit Invitation

JN131256 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this morning received in his office Brother Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Jordan's minister of education and an envoy of King Husayn. Al-Hindawi conveyed a letter from King Husayn inviting President Salih to the extraordinary Arab summit set for 8 November in Amman.

Saba' has learned that President Salih gave the Jordanian envoy a reply letter saying the YAR will participate in the summit. The meeting was attended by the YAR minister of education and Jordan's ambassador to Sanaa.

President on Gulf War, Summit, Al-Asad
JN120945 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 87 pp 11, 24

["Text" of interview with President Saddam Husayn by Ahmad al-Jarallah, editor in chief of the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Siyasah*, in Baghdad; date not given; published in conjunction with Kuwait *Al-Siyasah*]

[Text] The president: How are things in Kuwait and how are the brothers in Kuwait? How is the *Al-Siyasah* newspaper? You in Kuwait have achieved special status in the Arab homeland.

We congratulate the Kuwaiti people on their firmness. Some Arabs may have observations based on speculation and traditional impressions. Some [Arabs] did not believe that the Kuwaitis would face Iranian threats with firmness. However, we know the Kuwaiti people are firm, despite appearances that gave some people the impression that the Kuwaiti people are not as firm as they are now. There are several reasons for this, such as the Kuwaiti people's neighborliness with their brothers the Iraqi people.

This neighborliness has made the Kuwaiti people's psychological state the same as the psychological state and morale of the Iraqis in the face of Iranian aggression. The Iraqi soldier's son, brother, and father have acquired the same psychological state and morale as the soldier on the frontline—not because they are directly fighting but because they share the same psychological state. Consequently, they have the psychological condition and morale of a fighter.

Because of our capabilities we are now twice as strong as we were 6 months ago—at least militarily, and also in other matters.

More than any other event, the incidents in Mecca have revealed the Iranian nature and Iran's religion. They have not only exposed the aberrant nature of Iran's rulers but have also exposed Iran's religion. You may or may not have heard that I had unhesitatingly told the Iraqis that the Iranians have a religion but that this religion is not Islam.

I shall confine myself to the basic issues that I have mentioned. As for the other issues, write an analysis about them based on what you hear from your brothers and from what you hear from me.

The journalist: I ask, has the war ended, Mr President?

The president: Has the war ended?

The journalist: Yes.

The president: The war is not over, not legally, not in reality. While being optimistic, it is the duty of the people who are commanding the war or commanding the front opposing Iranian aggression to be alert to the very last moment. Even if the Iranians should accept Security Council Resolution 598 and its implementation then began in sequence, with the resolution's articles being implemented—Article 1, Article 2, Article 3, and so on and so forth—unless the last article is implemented and becomes part of history, we must then not drop our guard but continue to be alert as through the war is continuing.

Has the war ended or not in other senses, however? The answer is that the Khomeyniite aggression has been destroyed, and we say this in all confidence. The threat of Khomeyniite aggression would have been great in two cases: If it had won militarily—even if such a victory was not total but merely an important victory—it would have been possible for the demagogues and those who have been brainwashed in the Khomeyniite manner in Iran to imagine that attaining all aggressive objectives throughout Muslim society and throughout the Arab world was imminent.

We have many experiences with them. Sometimes we capture prisoners on the border who have been told by their commanders that Karbala' lies behind such and such a plateau—for they rely on illiterates who do not know military geography. They are told that when they cross this plateau they will find Karbala'; they come with enthusiasm and their eyes are covered with a blindfold.

They are told the plateau is part of a border, and that the distance between them and the nearest Iraqi town is so many kilometers away. What would the situation be if they were to achieve an important military victory? They would then be even more blinded. They would be excited and their state, even away from the front, would be terrible. That has not happened, and we are now in the war's 8th year.

The illegitimate, aggressive objectives which were not achieved, although we have entered the 8th year [of war], are not expected to be attained in the 8th, 9th, or 10th year. Achieving the illegitimate, aggressive objectives depends on ignorance and negligence. Ignorance could last a short period of time. With the passage of time, critics will increase and facts will become clear even to the ignorant persons on whom Khomeyni depends.

As a result, an awakening will appear in addition to the instinctive awakening that is motivated by death. The instinctive awakening becomes possible when many people die and when time passes. Enlightened people will increase their criticism, the aggressive objectives will be hard to attain, and enthusiasm will become low. This situation currently exists in Iran.

The other important side is Arab negligence. The serious aggression could have taken the Arab nation and the Islamic community as a prize due to negligence on the

part of the Arabs, Muslims, and the international community. If a guard is alert it is difficult to steal the items he is guarding, but if he falls asleep the most precious things can be stolen.

In the stages of war, Iraq has always been alert. The Arabs did not realize the Khomeyniite aggression, its long-term objectives, or its serious dangers to pan-Arab security and even to Islamic and world security.

The awakening has appeared. Everyone is now alert. The Arab people have become alert. People have awakened their children to see what is happening. People who have rifles took them up, cleaned them, prepared them, and lie in wait. Those who have ideas presented these ideas and defended them. People have begun to build fences on their borders to defend them.

The Khomeyniites who did not achieve their objectives in the years of negligence cannot achieve them in the years of awakening. Following this definition, the war has ended and Khomeyniism fell in its trap. In terms of legal and technical definitions and according to our field calculations, we will keep our finger on the trigger and adhere to the long-term calculations until the last moment.

The journalist: In this atmosphere is there fear for Iraq?

The president: No. On the contrary, Iraq has now become more fortified in the trench of Muslims in Bangladesh. In the past, the Iraq-Iran border was the only battlefield with Iran. Now, Iraq's defensive trenches are in Kuwait, Bangladesh, and Egypt as well as in the mind and conscience of the world's good people.

The Muslims, Arabs, and other nations now defend Iraq because everyone has realized that the aggression is directed against not only Iraq but also against the Arabs, the Muslims, and humanity. Now Iraq is stronger than it was in the years 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983.

The journalist: Mr President, why is there this Iranian stubbornness amid this atmosphere?

The president: There are three reasons for this stubborness. The first reason depends on the Iranians' historical mentality. This stubbornness is not only the stubbornness of Khomeyni; this stubbornness and extremism is an existing state in the Iranian mentality. It has existed among the aggressive currents for a very long time. I once told a diplomat: If you do not want to lose, remember the Iranian bazaar. If an Iranian offers you a commodity at a price of $17, do not pay them more than $1.

In addition, you should not compare the Iranian market to the French, British, or Soviet ones; you should not compare their calls, demands, or even what appears to be inflexibility in their behavior in comparison to normal standards. If a Frenchman offers you a commodity at a price of $17 and you propose $13, you can divide the $4 between you or you can add $1 to make the price $14. A deal could thus be reached and you would not be the loser in paying such a price. However, if you deal with the Iranians in accordance with the French, English, or any other mentality, you will then be disillusioned.

In the Iranian mentality there is great exaggeration and stubbornness that stretches deep into their history. This is due to historical and geographical reasons that I do not intend to discuss now. However, I say this is one of the reasons. If you remember, Iran's King Mohammad Reza Pahlevi was not called the king of Iran but Shahenshah Aryamehr; that is, the king of kings. Does this name mean anything but complete devotion to appearances and a departure from logical behavior and words?

On the other hand, we the Arabs say so and so is the king of Jordan, so and so is the king of Saudi Arabia, and so and so is the king of Yemen. That is how we say things. We do not say the king of kings. The shah of Iran was the king of kings to the last moment.

In Iraq and Kuwait we call someone master either because of his religious practices or because he descends from the prohpet's family. Or, we say someone is a mullah and another is the imam of the mosque. In other words, we call things by their ordinary, simple names. In Iran, on the other hand, you always find name combinations: hojjatollah and ayatollah. They always possess this inclination towards grandiosity, which in itself is one of stubbornness' traits. This is an old characteristic in Iranian society. He who escapes this characteristic can be understood quickly. Thus, that is one of the reasons.

The second reason is that they pushed their people through slogans and imagination to a state completely out of touch with reality.

What is their slogan? It is not crushing Iraq or establishing what is called the Islamic Republic, which is but a part and stepping-stone toward implementing their larger slogan.

They have said to all their peoples that they have been entrusted by God. That is what the Imam says, and Khomeyni is an Imam, not a deputy Imam or an acting Imam. So the Imam has been asked by God to establish an Islamic state in all the land of the Arabs and Muslims, with the Iranians as its masters; for they would form the cadres of the new state and the new religion. They want a Persian empire.

When their peoples ask them how they will establish it, they say to them: We will establish it with the sword. They do not say: We will establish it with dialogue. However, they are being destroyed on Iraq's border from the 1st year of the war to the present. Such a situation has created many difficulties for them which some of them find difficult to overcome. Their instigation of their people has brought very large slogans and goals that are

beyond reach and impossible to achieve. They have been destroyed at the first gate of aggression and this has made it very difficult for them to retreat.

One other factor is the forces that harbor evil toward the region; whenever the Iranian aggressors feel impotent, a gap is opened for them in the wall, thus enabling them to hang on to a new hope. Zionism plays a basic role in this regard. All these factors together have made them so extreme. And this is despite the fact that they can tangibly sense that they cannot achieve any result through war, and that the war also harms them—and they are now convinced that the war harms them more than it benefits them. Such a feeling will deepen and grow stronger, and yet they are still adamant and persist in continuing the war.

Those interested in politics must realize that people who are so arrogant and who entertain such illusions do not employ incrementation when they retreat: They do no retreat gradually, but instead slide down in one go from great extremism to a maximum retreat. There are many examples of this, such as the way in which Iran sold out the issue of the students holding the U.S. Embassy in return for money. They changed from laying siege to the embassy—which they described as "the archsatan's den of spies" and an expression of the Islamic Republic's strenght—to those who sold the issue for money.

There is a great deal of contradiction in such a state. The same applies to Irangate. Their extreme partisanship changes from hostility to the United States—which they call the archsatan—and to Israel—which they call the number one enemy of Muslims—and the aim of liberating Jerusalem into sitting down with them at the same table with the sole aim of obtaining weapons with which to harm Iraq. One can see such abrupt and steep concessions.

You veteran journalists and writers must not have illusions. The Iranians may give the strongest statements, but they give up suddenly if they face a firm position. This is something that should not be forgotten.

Now I will revert to a subject that you can either publish or ignore. Recently, after the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution, we Iraqis acted based on our free will in accordance with new developments. It is true that some international circles begged and others requested, but we decided ourselves to act in accordance with the new atmosphere. For example, we wanted to give he UN secretary general and UN Security Council an opportunity since the Security Council had adopted the resolution. We decided to halt strikes in the Gulf for an appropriate period. We halted attacks for 40 days without an announcement.

However, the Iranians thought we had stopped at the instruction or under the pressure of what they called the United States or the large powers. Their illusions blinded them and their arrogance intoxicated them. They began to dictate conditions to Iraq through their masses media. They said that if Iraq struck oil and economic targets on land, they would respond by striking and spreading destruction everywhere, and that even Kuwait would not be safe from their anger. They also said that if Iraq struck at sea, they would strike at and sow destruction everywhere, and that foreign military fleets in the Gulf would not be safe from their anger.

However, when the moratorium we gave them ended, we attacked the means used to feed their aggression on land and at sea. What did they do? They attacked their own vessel which had come to load their oil as well as peaceful civilian ships in the Gulf that had nothing to do with the U.S., British, or French Navies.

These are the Iranians. Was it possible for us to have illusions about their threats? No, we did not, because we know the Iranian mentality. We said that these threats by Iran's rulers are nonsense. Strike at them. God damn their beards. The hawks beat them where it hurts.

The journalist: Mr President, as for the Mecca incidents, some believe they have both a negative and a positive aspect. The positive aspect is that they ended the Saudi dream concerning the Iranian regime. The negative aspect was the killing and similar actions. What is your view of the Mecca incidents? In one of your speeches you said they are trying to carry a new religion to Mecca.

The president: I will never give up this idea. This conviction has nothing to do with the war. If you ask me the same question when the war has ended, I will give you the same answer. The Iranians embrace a new religion that has nothing to do with Islam.

The only quality that the Iranians now have in common Muslims is that according to Islamic law and what has been decided throughout the past 1,400 years, the Iranians are commited to performing the rites and ending them during the pilgrimage season with other Muslims. They should do this in accordance with a sequences of steps that were established a long time ago, steps in which Muslims believe and which they are accustomed to applying. This is the only common experience left for the Iranians to perform together with Muslims.

The Iranians exploited the flexibility of the Saudi brothers. They believed this flexibility is a weakness like the Iranian state itself. We know they interpret flexibility and a reasonable stand as a weakness. The Iranians began to introduce new rites to the pilgrimage. Do not be surprised if one day the Iranians say they have discovered that the pilgrimage day begins on a new date and that the beginning and end of the Ka'ba's circumambulation are contrary to known Muslims' traditions and the pilgrimage ceremonies. We all know their new heresy which calls for not having relations with unbelievers, as well their demonstrations and placards. Each of them carries a placard, a picture, and a banner.

If such a door is opened, many processions will go [to Mecca] from each Islamic country. Each procession will have its own interpretations. Then Muslims will even be divided and dismembered in the land in which God wants to gather them. We will then travel there with a pistol, a knife, or something else beneath our pilgrimage dress to fight each other with. What took place in Mecca is serious and painful. What took place is more than introducing rites to distinguish themselves from the other Muslims, according to the Iranian viewpoint.

In my assessment, what took place is a political plot. If they were allowed to sit in in the Ka'ba a serious situation would arise. It might be difficult to describe the details of the possibilities. It is a rejected, not only a criticized state. We can give it more ruthless descriptions. On the other hand, the incident played a role in awakening Muslims.

Muslims throughout the world now ask: Is this Khomeyni's religion? Muslims who did not know and who did not follow Khomeyni's religion will now ask this question. When they ask this question their answer will be: This is Khomeyni's religion. The mentality that practices religion in such a manner is an aggressive and serious state. This is the only positive side of the issue; however, the issue itself is negative and serious.

Praise be to God. The Saudi brothers faced the plot with courage and ability. All good people in the world criticized and condemned this [Iranian] behavior. God saved us from a greater catastrophe and from more serious repercussions.

The journalist: Mr President, Iraq has been standing fast for 8 years and is presently approaching victory. There are those who play a particular tune; namely, that driven by the elation of victory, Iraq will turn its attention to the Arabs in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. Such tunes are whispered.

The president: Where do such whispers emerge from? They come from the Arabs' enemies. They may be believed by some Arabs, but I believe the minds that accept such talk are bound to be unclean and to lack confidence.

Let us leave this subject. In its past history, how many times has Iraq attacked the Arabs so that one can believe that once this war is over, Iraq will then act aggressively against the Arabs?

Where does Iraq's main strength lie? You are Arabs, brothers, and our partners in the same destiny. You must have been aware of where Iraq's strength lies. Strength for us is not a technical state, O Ahmad, so that Iraq will use it against the Arabs—even if an evil man should one day rule Iraq. Strength is a principled state.

Where are the principles in the state of strength? They are in the people holding the conviction that their stand toward aggression is a correct stand, that they are bound to defend themselves in the face of Iranian aggression, and that the fighter dies in defense of his land, honor, sanctitities, and values. Iraq's strength thus lies in the high standard of unity among the leaders, the people, the party, and the Armed Forces.

If an evil man or evil men should rule Iraq, would the Iraqi soldiers be prepared to commit aggression against Jordan, kill, and be killed? The answer is: On the contrary. Iraq's struggle for liberation and the rivers of blood that have flowed have made Iraqis more aware, more committed to peace, more repelled by evil and war and closer to good, more capable of distinguishing between right and wrong at any time in their lives, and less capable of being driven by emotional slogans not only against an Arab country, but also against any country in the world.

Those who whisper the kind of talk you mentioned are those who want us to be weak and who want to remove from our minds and behavior the cohesion that enables us to put an end to the nightmare we are experiencing. Just as Iraq is stronger now and will be stronger in the future, Iraq after the war will be more tolerant and more patient. Even if Kuwait should attack Iraq after the war, God forbid, and Iraq does not retaliate, no one can say Iraq did not retaliate because it is weak.

People will say Iraq must have a reason for acquiescing to military aggression by its brothers. Iraq will then say: Do not attack me; Iraq will not use arms against them or against others. God willing, the Iraqi will be a brother who provides support even for those who deviate. As for traitors, we will not act as a support to them because history, their people, and the Arabs will take them to task. Now the Arabs know who is a traitor and who is not.

The journalist: Mr President, do you believe the Iranians can confront the United States in the Arabian Gulf?

The president: The signs so far do not indicate so. The Iranians undertake a confrontation in one case only, namely when they want to be defeated so that they can then say they were defeated by world arrogance and not by Iraq. The Iranians have been talking irrationally. They are too impotent to clash with the United States and too cowardly to embark on such an adventure. They know what a clash with the United States entails; they know what it really involves. Consequently, I do not believe they will clash with the United States.

The journalist: Mr President, what is the stand of the GCC states? Do the Iraqi political leaders find it satisfactory?

The president: Satisfaction in a comparative sense, yes, but as for satisfaction in the thinking sense, that is another matter. Let me describe to you the Arab situation as follows: There are those who supported Iran and hit us [by supplying Iran] with arms. Nevertheless, when they said they wished to turn a new leaf, we said: That is good, God willing. Let us turn a new leaf and we shall see what the next step will be, right? Flexibility in Iraqi thinking has attained such a level and such perspicacity as to serve the interests of the Arab nation. When a brother from the GCC does not harm Iraq, we will of course consider him to be much better than one who does harm Iraq. If a brother supports Iraq we will consider such a side to be the first in the Arab ranks.

There are various cases in the GCC, for we do not view the GCC as one case. There are brothers who supported Iraq; we view them as being in the forefront of the Arab homeland. There are brothers who are silent, while there are also brothers who say one word here and half a word there. You know them. However, in general I believe that when they look for a better situation to support themselves or to support their brothers, all the brothers including Iraq can choose the better situation.

The journalist: Mr President, whenever military hostilities between Iraq and Iran are stepped up, and whenever Iran becomes desperate in its war with Iraq, the Kuwaitis believe that they are about to become the target of an act of despair by Iran. What is your view on this?

The president: I do not believe this. The weaker Iran becomes the more difficult it is for it to open a new front. The more imminent hopes it has the more aggressive it becomes. Nevertheless, we must always be vigilant and beware of the kick of a dying mule. However, our analysis is that the weaker Iran becomes, the more difficult it will be for it to attack those who are standing on their feet. And Kuwait is standing on its feet, with its people, leaders, and through the cohesion of us all.

We are your brothers and we are ready—do not say that Iraq is fighting a war, for at the appropriate time, we can dispense with a number of military divisons to fight on your side. We can fight on this front also, and with the same strength and impetus. As you know, the Air Force can take to the air and at any time fight in any place it reaches and or is needed to carry out its duties.

The journalist: Mr President, the tool for change in Iran can be either the Army or the people. What is your view of the internal front in Iran?

The president: I do not expect that there will be a change in the form of a new state which is contrary to the existing once. What will happen is that Iran will be worn out all at once, just like a garment that tears off the body all at once when it has become moth-eaten or too old. A moment will come when Iran will not be gradually weakened but will be worn out all at once and will also become unable to endure. Iran moreover will use up all its resources so that its ability to continue at any phase will end all of a sudden.

The journalist: Mr President, when we review Khomeyni's speeches we find in them neither a powerful political mentality nor a man who has a good understanding of the course of events. Nevertheless, we find that Khomeyni is still in power although he is not an astute politician who can manipulate such contradictions or the currently fluied situation.

The president: If Khomeyni had avoided war, then his exposure and revelation would have been perpetuated and he would have been a symbol for Iran, perhaps for hundreds of years. As you have described him, Khomeyni has not delivered any speech containing a political, economic, or social analysis. Instead, Khomeyni is a talkative person who always repeats himself; his utterances can be heard from naive people. Khomeyni emerged from the men of religion in Iran and relied on illiterate people and on the mobs in Iran more than on others. This is because Khomeyni had realized from the very start that he would depart from the genuine men of religion in Iran.

Moreover, since Khomeyni knows his own mentality, he will conflict with all mentalities that can analyze and deduce things and that can also resort to logic and reason. Therefore, Khomeyni relied on illiterate people and on the mobs and tried to use them to terrorize the men of religion and the intellectuals who oppose him in Iran. Moreover, Khomeyni installed persons whose ability conflicts daily with ordinary civil mentalities in Iran. He also installed persons in the highest ranks of power who were falsely credited with being men of religion. But all men of religion who are not in power are opposed to thse persons. Hence, all persons in power who claim to be men of religion realize that the men of religion who are not in power are against them.

Therefore, they had to rally around Khomeyni because he is the only person who can keep them in power and allow them to obtain more than they deserve. Moreover, all the civilians whom Khomeyni installed and who represent his policy also realize that the people who are not in power or the people holding inferior ranks are more efficient than they are. They also know that their selection had been in accordance with Khomeyni's will and not due to their efficiency. Khomeyni also made one axis hostile to the other axes and terminated organized action. He also weakened the Army as an organized body and created the Revolutionary Guards in its place.

The last thing Khomeyni has ended is the so-called Islamic Republican Party, since the president of the state was a member of it. He did this so as not to grant this party organized popular strength in addition to it being the center of power. Khomeyni then dissolved this party and tried to sow discord among the men of religion.

All these are factors. However, it is natural that any revolution like the Iranian revolution requires some time to crystallize an organized concept capable of confronting the people who deviate from the essence of the aims approved during the secret struggle. Therefore, part of this is due to the nature of the present regime as we have described it, and another part is due to the nature of the Iranian peoples as they were known throughout history. And yet another part is due to international circumstances. Khomeyni has ceased to be a symbol of what is good as it was hoped he would be in Iran and the world.

The journalist: Mr President, will the Arab summit conference be held?

The president: Yes, it will be held.

The journalist: On time and as scheduled?

The president: Almost.

The journalist: Do you expect it to succeed?

The president: Success and failure are to be judged by the nature of the objectives and circumstances for which any conference is held. However, I consider it a positive sign for the Arabs to meet every now and then. This means that it would not be positive not to meet; what is positive is that they meet. What remains is the extent of this success and whether this success will approach the level I, you, or others desire. This is connected with the known circumstances, the nature of developments, and dialogue and its course.

The journalist: Mr President, [Syrian President] Al-Asad said he met with you several times and that he did not exactly know your viewpoint. I would like to ask which of you did not know the other's viewpoint?

The president: No, I knew his viewpoint and he knew my viewpoint exactly. I did not meet with him several times; I met with him once in Jordan. Two meetings were held: one lasting 12 and 1/2 hours, and the other about 3 and 1/2 hours. I found Hafiz al-Asad as I had imagined him to be. I had hoped he would differ from what I had known about him, but found him the same, and he also found me the same.

The two characters are known to you and the Arab citizen. We found ourselves poles apart, as we had been poles apart—not in personality, but in our understanding, our mentality, and our thinking. We are miles apart on all pan-Arab and national issues. We did not agree on anything. We did not get closer on anything or in any direction.

The journalist: Can we hear about these two viewpoints?

The president: I do not want to get into details. I only gave you a description and told you that Hafiz al-Asad has not changed and that Saddam Husayn is as you know him to be. Saddam Husayn was not expected to change, while Hafiz al-Asad was expected to change. Because he did not change, everything remained as it was.

Leadership Discussues Gulf War, Arab Summit

JN122023 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this evening presided over a joint RCC and Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting. The latest political developments pertaining to the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the current Security Council deliberations were discussed during the meeting. The RCC and the Regional Command stressed Iraq's firm stand on the need to comprehensively and accurately implement Resolution 598 in accordance with its contents and aims to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace.

The conferees also discussed the Arab situation and current preparations to hold an extraordinary summit in Amman to discuss Iran's aggression against Iraq, Iran's threats against the Arabian Gulf states, and pan-Arab security.

Kurds Say Kidnapped Italians Not Hostages

AU140801 Paris AFP in English 0322 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Paris, Oct 14 (AFP)—Three Italian technicians kidnapped by a pro-Iranian Kurdish movement in Iraq are "neither prisoners nor hostages", a Paris representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said on Tuesday night.

"We will give them back," PUK representative Ahmad Bamarni told AFP. He said the three were "detained" but there was "no danger to their life or their physical well-being".

He said the men, Sergio Cominetti, who was kidnapped in mid-September, and Giuseppe Carrara and Roberto Diotavelli both abducted 10 days ago, were being held in "liberated zones" controlled by the PUK north east of Kirkuk in Iraqi Kurdistan.

They were being "well treated", he said.

Gulf Operations, Air Strikes Continue

Basra Shelling Escalates

JN131711 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Basra, 13 Oct (INA)—The Iranian enemy has continued its shelling of residential areas in the city of Basra. The enemy's long-range artillery shelling escalated at 1500 [1200 GMT] today. An INA correspondent said the enemy artillery shelling concentrated on the Al-Khalij Al-'Arabi, Al-Husayniyah, Al-Asma'i, and the Old

Basra areas, all of which are strictly residential. The INA correspondent added that shells from the Iranian enemy artillery and launchers fell on various residential areas in Basra.

Communique No 2,873 Issued

JN131734 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,873 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces have continued their heroic activities in defense of great Iraq's achievements and its glorious revolution's gains. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships today carried out 33 combat sorties over the scoundrels' concentrations, positions, and hardware and inflicted new losses on the Khomeyniite aggressors. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, 10 enemy personnel were either killed or wounded and 5 infantry positions and 1 heavy machinegun were destroyed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, our brave units pounded the enemy units opposite them and achieved the following:

Four infantry positions were destroyed and their crews were killed, three various vehicles were burned and damaged, four shovels [preceding word in English] were destroyed, eight ammunition dumps were detonated, and two observation posts were destroyed.

4. Our forces in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: One 106-mm gun, two infantry positions, and one observation post were destroyed; and one shovel was damaged.

5. Using long-range artillery, the despotic Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra last night and today. It also shelled Khanaqin, Badrah, Qal'at Dizah, and Mandali. As a result, a number of civilians were martyred. Others, including women and children, were wounded, while several houses were also damaged. Mercy to our martyrs and a speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 October 1987

8 Said Killed in Shelling

JN140635 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0623 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Iranian long-range artillery shelled residential areas in the city of Basra and the villages of Sirwan, Khanaqin, Mandali, and Qal'at Dizah.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA today that the criminal shelling martyred 8 citizens, including a number of women and children, and wounded 36 others, also including a number of women and children. The spokesman said: We are telling these facts to world public opinion to make it realize that the Iranian Government's actions are immoral and in total conflict with human values. The spokesman stressed that the world should adopt a decisive stand toward this criminal clique and prevent other governments from dealing with this gang.

Papers React to Iranian Missile Attacks

JN140832 Baghdad INA In Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Iraqi newspapers published here today were unanimous in agreeing that the Iranian regime's greatest crime will not go unpunished.

In their editorials, the newspapers stressed that missiles fired by the Iranian regime against strictly residential areas will only strengthen the determination of the Iraqi people and their Armed Forces to continue their holy defensive war and their painful blows against the aggressors' dens and resources.

The newspaper *Al-Thawrah* said: Iran's firing of a surface-to-surface missile against the Balat al-Shuhada' School is a great crime. It is time to punish those bloodthirsty murderers and to reply to their heinous crime.

The newspaper added: We now possess a legitimate right to reply to this vile crime. The Tehran rulers are responsible before world public opinion and before their peoples for the consequences of their crime.

The newspaper stressed that Iraq has no doubt that the Iraqi reply to this crime will receive large-scale understanding from the international community. It says that with this crime, the Iranian rulers have completely and clearly exposed their bankruptcy and defeat in front of the Iraqis on the battlefields. This crime will provide Iraq the opportunity to foil their expansionist plans to undermine Iraq, the Arab nation, and pan-Arab security.

The newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah* said: Through this heinous crime against Iraqi children, the Iranian rulers, through their own actions, seek to bring their end closer.

The newspaper adds: Through their terrible crimes, particularly the crime they committeed yesterday morning, these desperate criminals insist that we should wage a war of cities against them. They know full well what a war of cities means, and they know its destructive consequences since they have suffered a great deal from such a war over the past years.

The newspaper points out that the Tehran rulers, who are blinded with rancor, realize that a single drop of Iraqi blood is very dear, particularly children's blood.

The newspaper stressed that the devastating Iraq blows will make the Tehran rulers regret their crime and will make them pay with the Zionist blood that flows in their rotten bodies in return for every single drop of pure Iraqi blood.

Al-Qadisiyah said: Yesterday's missile and the missiles that preceded it directed against Badhdad's purely residential areas as well as other crimes against civilians resulting from artillery shelling all confirm beyond any doubt that the Tehran rulers have nothing left to justify their insistence on war and survival in power. The newspaper added: Our Armed Forces will avenge Iraq's children and chaste women and every pure drop of blood that has watered Iraqi soil.

The newspaper noted: Yesterday's crime is the decisive turning point in the war's course as far as we are concerned. It has given us complete legitimacy before the world to use all we have at hand in terms of lethal weapons to strike at every target that we can reach. There are no targets inside Iran that we cannot reach. The newspaper addressed all ranks of the Armed Forces' fighters by saying: You do not need anyone to stir your sense of revenge for your chaste women, children, and the Balat al-Shuhada' School. We realize that you are now fuming with anger and hatred against the enemy of God, your enemy, and that you are waiting for the moment the leadership decides to deliver the big strike against Khomeyni.

The newspaper added: Therefore, keep your fingers on the trigger and be assured that you have every right to seek revenge.

Al-'Iraq said: The evilmongers in Tehran have gone too far in shelling peaceful Iraqi cities. Their confounded rancor prompted them to commit the greatest, ugly crime against Iraqi children. The newspaper added: The Iraqi Armed Forces, which have always delivered painful blows to the aggressors, are capable today, tomorrow, and every day of inflicting far more vengeance than the Tehran evilmongers can imagine as a just punishment for the crimes which only those who are devoid of honor and conscience can commit.

The newspaper explained: We remind the criminals, the allies of Zionism, and those who harbor hatred for Iraq, the Arab nation, and islam of the days when they experienced the fruit of their vile acts. We remind them of our devastating, angry reply in terms of destruction that included Tehran and other Iranian cities.

Baghdad Funeral Described

JN141202 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Hundreds of thousands of Baghdad citizens participated in the funeral of 32 Iraqi child martyrs. The children's coffins were wrapped in Iraqi flags and wreaths were laid on them. This awe-inspiring funeral procession has been moving through the streets of Baghdad since 1000 [0700 GMT] today, 26 hours after the greatest Iranian crime against Iraq's children—when the Balat al-Shuhada' School was struck by a treacherous Iranian missile.

The citizens participating in the funeral procession shouted with one voice: Revenge, revenge for Iraq's children. Hundreds of men and women rushed from streets and buildings to join the procession, which was headed by groups of Baghdad children including survivors from the Balat al-Shuhada' School. These survivors carried pictures of their martyred fellow pupils. Others were carrying the martyrs' school bags, which were stained with their pure blood. The citizens' sadness and anger mingled with the wails and cries of Baghdad's women. Children shouted: Revenge, revenge for the Balat al-Shuhada' martyrs. [Passage omitted]

Shultz To Present Shamir Interim Husayn Deal

TA140859 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is to arrive in Israel this Friday, will propose to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir an interim settlement with King Husayn and joint Israeli-Jordanian administration of the territories, within the framework of direct negotiations under the auspices of an international conference.

The reference is to a settlement in which most of the authority for civilian administration in the territories will be transferred to Jordan, while responsibility for security will remain in Israel's hands. Furthermore, as long as there is no permanent settlement, the Israeli settlements in the territories will not be touched and will remain as they are today.

It has been learned that for the first time that Shultz will present Shamir with King Husayn's agreement to an interim settlement with Israel which would in the future lead to a peace agreement and permanent arrangements for the Israeli-Jordanian border.

U.S. sources have reported that Shultz is concerned about the escalation in terrorism in the territories on the eve of his visit. In his view, only progress in the political negotiations will lead to curbing terrorism and damaging the power of the extremist organizations that are trying to harm the political process. Shultz will appeal to Shamir to lend a hand to the political process and not pile up obstacles. The prime minister will present his political position, which is firmly opposed to convening an international conference.

Weizman Soon To Get Invitation to USSR

TA140904 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Oct 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Minister-Without-Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman is to be invited to the Soviet Union in the near future for meetings with top Soviet leaders, informed sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

Although the sources did not specify when the invitation to Weizman would be extended, unconfirmed reports yesterday said that the Soviets might invite him to participate in the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution to be held at the end of the month. The ceremonies are also to be attended by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Weizman has repeatedly said that he would agree to speak with 'Arafat if the PLO leader recognized Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and 'Arafat has frequently expressed willingness to meet with Weizman.

Sources in RAKAH said yesterday that they have been exploring the possibility of a meeting between 'Arafat and Weizman in Moscow.

Weizman has been angling for an invitation to Moscow for several months. Many of the contacts with the Soviets on his behalf have been made through his friend and lawyer Leon Charney, who has frequently held talks with Soviet officials on the release of refuseniks. Charney is in Israel filming a docudrama based on his book *Special Counsel*, which he wrote with the late Mark Segal of *The Jerusalem Post*.

Weizman has said that if he visits Moscow he must meet with the highest Soviet leaders, either General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev or Anatoliy Dobrynin, the top foreign policy official.

Soviet Officials on Group's Visit to USSR

TA121257 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Oct 87 p A6

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Soviet officials recently hinted that Moscow may make possible a visit by an Israeli delegation to the Soviet Union while the Soviet consular delegation is still in Israel.

According to authoritative sources in Jerusalem, this possibility arose a few days ago in talks between Soviet officials and Western diplomats, and information about this has reached Israel. At the same time, the Soviets took care not to draw a parallel between their consular delegation and the Israeli delegation. The Soviets even took care not to define the Israeli delegation as a consular one.

This week will mark the completion of the Soviet consular delegation's 3d month in Israel. The delegation has already asked that its stay in Israel be extended. Israel long ago withdrew its demand for full reciprocity but announced that it insists on its right to send a consular delegation to the Soviet Union in the future.

Extended Stay 'Symbolic'

TA130733 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Soviet consular delegation in Israel yesterday received formal permission from the Foreign Ministry to extend their stay by three months.

The Soviets, who arrived here in July, indicated several weeks ago that they would return to Moscow at the end of their originally scheduled three-month visit. They changed their minds, however, and Israeli agreement [in]

principle for an extension was given to mission chief Yuriy Antipev at a meeting with Foreign Ministry Political Director-General Yosi Beilin.

Observers in Jerusalem said yesterday that although the Soviets are here obstensibly to deal with Russian property in Israel and with consular affairs, they are clearly "unemployed" and their presence now is more of a symbolic nature, constituting semi-permanent official Soviet representation.

Iran Said Preparing Attacks in U.S., France
TA131457 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1430 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] The Iranians are recruiting suicide attackers to carry out attacks in the United States and France. This was reported by the newspaper *Al-Tali'ah al-Arabi'ah*, which says that a new terror wave is being planned in the Iranian Embassy in West Beirut. A large number of Iranian Revolutionary Guards reached Beirut at the end of September to recruit suicide attackers and to take steps against the Amal Movement in reaction to its conflict with Hizballah.

PRC 'Opening Its Gates' to Israeli Tourists
TA111220 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
11 Oct 87 p 4

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The PRC is opening its gates to Israeli tourists as a first step toward a political thaw between the two countries. The Chinese authorities recently resumed issuing visas to Israelis who arrive on organized tours from Europe. The Chinese intend to enable more Israelis to visit their country in the future.

The visas are given to Israeli passport holders, who obtain them without encountering special difficulties. Hitherto only Israelis with dual citizenship were allowed to visit China.

Dozens of Israelis have applied for visas, and some of them will leave shortly. The preferred route today is through London, from where a direct British Airways flight is taken to Beijing.

Islamic Jihad Seen 'at Doorstep' in Territories
TA131401 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
13 Oct 87 pp 16, 17

[Report by Oren Kohen: "The Islamic Jihad Is Now at Your Doorstep"]

[Summary] The latest wave of events in Gaza and the escape of six terrorists from Gaza jail on 18 May "offers a glimpse into a mechanism operating one of the most secret bodies in the territories. The perpetuation of prevailing social and political trends among the residents of the territories will have the immediate effect of strengthening the status of the Islamic Jihad, and will have a long-term impact as well.

"The Islamic Jihad is part of the general movement backed by Khomeyni. Although there are differences between the Sunni and Shi'ite versions of the Islamic Jihad, from the Jewish point of view they are the same: Both organizations regard Jews as heathens who must be exterminated. The various Islamic Jihad organizations are outlawed in all the countries of our region except Iran, because they are subversive by nature and want to overthrow the existing regime in order to extend the Iranian model of the Islamic revolution to those countries as well.

"Islamic Jihad members usually gather in mosques and universities, such as the Islamic University in Gaza and Al-Najah University in Nabulus. Most of their supporters come from the ranks of the 'Islamic Mujama'a', a movement of religious Muslim members of the intelligentsia, which is prospering in the universities in the territories.

"The Mujama'a movement in Gaza, which is identified with the mainstream Muslim Brotherhood, is headed by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, whose deputy is Dr Mahmud al-Zahra. The Islamic Jihad has been enjoying the erosion in the Mujama'a's status, but this has also caused bitter feuds between the two factions. The schism between them stems from, among other things, a difference in their ideologies. While the Mujama'a emphasizes activity among the Muslim Arab population, the Islamic Jihad stresses the great importance of carrying out a jihad against the Israeli regime now, and opposes the Mujama'a's methods.

Mujama'a members won approximately 80 percent of the votes during the latest elections to the students union at the Islamic University in Gaza. All the other Palestinian organizations ran on an opposing ticket as one bloc.

"As the feeling of despair in the territories mounts, support for the Islamic Jihad increases. The group unites a number of nationalistic Palestinian elements and maintains that only the success of the Islamic revolution would bring about a solution to the Palestinian problem. The organization objects to the establishment of a Palestinian state and calls for the imposition of Islamic law on all 'Muslim land.' Its clandestine nature has rendered Islamic Jihad meetings very secret.

"The roots of the Islamic Jihad organization in the territories can be found in the 'Palestinian Liberation Forces,' which are the remnants of the 'Palestinian Army' that operated prior to the 6-Day War. The military government considers some 'Palestinian Army' graduates to be the true leaders of the Islamic Jihad.

"The person who established the first Islamic movement cell in Israeli prisons, Shaykh Jabir 'Ammar of Gaza, is still considered one of the Sunni Islamic Jihad's leaders in the Middle East." He is serving a life sentence, and "is still considered the leader of all Muslims in Israeli jails and outside them.

"Forty-year-old Ahmad Muhanna of Khan Yunus heads one of the Islamic Jihad's military organizations in the Gaza Strip. Some people believe he is at the top of the pyramid of terrorist activity." He was released as part of the prisoner exchange deal with Ahmad Jibril's organization in May 1985, rearrested, released again, and then again imprisoned. He is now being held separately from all other Islamic Jihad members in the Gaza jail.

"The indictment submitted against him in June 1986 says that since 1972 he has been a member of the Islamic Jihad, 'an organization whose goal is to establish an Islamic state in the entire Islamic homeland, as it calls for the toppling of existing regimes by force. The organization forms part of the broad Khomeyni-backed movement and attributes special importance to the Palestine's armed liberation from the Zionist conqueror by means of jihad.'"

The Islamic Jihad's "ideologue and policymaker" in the Gaza Strip is 36-year-old Dr Fathi Shaqaqi, who is serving a 4-year prison term as a result of a plea bargain negotiated 1 year ago. He received his M.D. from Egypt's Zaqaziq University, which "is considered a bastion of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic Jihad."

Islamic Jihad operations increased in 1986, and included the attack against Giv'ati Brigade soldiers at the Western Wall; handgun murders at short range, throat slashings, hand grenade attacks, stabbings, and the activation of a "device that is especially popular in the Gaza Strip due to the shortage of explosives": a charge made of incendiary material stuffed into pipes.

"Throughout Israeli jails, Islamic Jihad members are organized in units that adhere to their own internal hierarchical system. The prisons are actually the only place where they operate overtly. The inmates spend 5 hours a day studying, during which no discourse or laughter is permitted. Even after study hours they devote most of their time to solving issues the Islamic way—by employing polemics and disputation."

"For the first time since it began operating in 1981," Islamic Jihad members "have circulated manifestos openly calling for an armed struggle and revenge against Israel. This marks the opening of a new phase in the various security branches' struggle against the Islamic Jihad."

King Husayn Returns From Visit to Cairo

JN111618 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur returned to Amman following a short working visit to Egypt. During the visit, His Majesty King Husayn met with his brother Egyptian President Muhammd Husni Mubarak. The two great leaders held a comprehensive review of recent developments in the Arab arena and the Middle East region.

They also reviewed recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war and stressed the need to end this war peacefully. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations. The two leaders also exchanged views on recent developments in the Palestine question and the international conference as being the only means to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question.

Their majesties were received by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the minister of state for parliamentary affairs; the Royal Court secretary general; and a number of senior officials.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed the hope that the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman on 8 November would be a turning point in the Arab course. He said he hoped it would help the Arabs to accurately deal with all Arab issues and to safeguard our trusts and perform our duties in safeguarding and defending the homeland. He also expressed hope that the summit would help defend the Arab nation's issues in a manner rising to the level of challenges facing us. His Majesty King Husayn also expressed optimism over the results of the coming summit.

Replying to journalists' questions before leaving Cairo today, His Majesty King Husayn said: We are following up the situation in the Gulf region. We hope to discuss this issue at the Amman summit.

Replying to a question on military escalation in the Gulf which raises the concern of some Gulf states, his majesty said: Unless we reorganize our ranks in the greater Arab homeland, everyone will continue to be concerned over the situation.

Regarding his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, his majesty said he might meet Shultz after his tour of the region at the end of his majesty's official visit to Finland.

His Majesty King Husayn said: I have come to dear Arab Egypt to congratulate my great brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on his reelection as president of the Republic and to convey the Jordanian people's appreciation, love, and admiration to his excellency and to fraternal Egypt.

Mubarak was asked whether the U.S. stand had changed after his excellency recently exchanged messages with U.S. President Reagan. He answered: We are waiting for the U.S. secretary of state who will arrive in Cairo on 19 October. We will discuss the new U.S. prospects with him.

King, Queen Depart for Finland on State Visit

JN131452 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur left Amman at noon today for Finland on a state visit of several days at the invitation of His Excellency President Mauno Koivisto and Mrs Koivisto. His majesty and the Finnish president will hold talks aimed at reinforcing bilateral ties and cooperation. They will also discuss regional and international issues of common concern.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court and Tahir al-Masri, minister of foreign affairs. His majesty was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Highness Princess Tharwat, and Her Highness Princess 'Aliyah.

The farewell party also included Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi; House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the chief chamberlain, His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Cabinet ministers, the chief of the Royal Household, and the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court.

His Majesty King Husayn swore in His Highness Prince Hasan, with the Council of Ministers in attendance, as regent during his majesty's trip overseas.

Abu 'Awdah Leaves for Algiers With Invitation

JN131252 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah left Amman this afternoon for Algiers to hand an official invitation from His Majesty King Husayn to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman on 8 November. On hand to see him off at Amman airport was the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

Jordan's Dudin Invites Al-Jumayyil to Summit

NC131620 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received Jordanian Minister Marwan Dudin at 1800 today. The Jordanian minister handed the president a written message from King Husayn and an invitation to attend the Arab summit conference, scheduled to convene in Amman next month.

The Jordanian delegation arrived at Juniyah port this afternoon, where it was received by Minister al-Hashim. The delegation comprises Mashhur al-Zayn, a secretary at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, and two majors in the Jordanian Royal Guard.

President To Lead Delegation

NC131841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Excerpt] According to an official source, President al-Jumayyil has assured the Jordanian king's envoy, Minister Marwan Dudin, that Lebanon will participate in the forthcoming Arab summit conference with a delegation led by him personally. The president also voiced readiness to coordinate with the participants in the conference to facilitate its tasks and to contribute to its success. [Passage omitted]

Al-Jumayyil Interviewed on Crisis Situation

PM091335 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Oct 87 pp 13-17

[Interview with President Amin al-Jumayyil by Raghidab Dirgham in New York—date not given]

[Text] *Al-Hawadith:* What is your plan of action? What is the program which you will perhaps submit to the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Amman?

President al-Jumayyil: The Lebanese situation is so serious that anything could happen. That is what everyone must understand. The situation is so serious that it could open the way for all kinds of possible suicides.

Al-Hawadith: Including your own "suicide"?

President al-Jumayyil: All suicides are possible.

Al-Hawadith: Does that mean that your program runs along the lines of "O God, be it on my head and on the heads of my enemies"?

President al-Jumayyil: It means that in the absence of any other solution, one acts in accordance with the proverb which says: "If we must die, then let us die as brave men." I add that we have not reached that stage yet. Furthermore, our contacts in New York with Arab and international sides have been very encouraging and we hope to reap the fruit of these contacts in the the near future. The fact remains, however, that the situation in Lebanon is serious and betokens grave consequences if all able and effective states in the region and the world do not quickly rescue Lebanon.

Al-Hawadith: What are the components of your program for the rescue of Lebanon and why do you expect it to succeed now if it is based on the same elements as when you first became president which, apparently, you have been unable to fulfill?

President al-Jumayyil: Lebanon has passed through conflicting circumstances ranging from the entry of Ari'el Sharon into Beirut and then the Syrian reentry into Beirut. The country at times has made a 180-degree turn. Every phase has brought its own complexities and horizons for a settlement. That is why the Lebanese problem and ways of solving it should not be viewed simplistically or partially.

Al-Hawadith: But if the components and principles of your program are the same as the principles you have pursued throughout your presidency, what makes you think that this program stands a better chance of success? Are there new factors, is there a new approach? Also, could you give us an idea about the elements of the program you have raised here in New York in your talks with Arab and international officials?

President al-Jumayyil: It is too early to talk about these matters in the media. But as I have said, all efforts are geared to the formulation of a plan for salvation which, we hope, would be unanimously supported by the internal and foreign powers, particularly since foreign powers wield considerable influence on the internal powers.

Our aim is to get a consensus in support of this plan even if, in the national interest, we have to amend some aspects of the plan. If ultimately we fail to get a consensus, then we will offer it to those who "come forward," as the saying goes. But before doing that we will seek unanimous backing even if we have to make certain modifications in the plan.

Al-Hawadith: As I understand it, the plan is clear, frank, and detailed and its articles are listed numerically as one, two, three, with dates attached. Do these articles include a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon?

President al-Jumayyil: We raise the issue as a whole. Lebanon is supposed to reach a stage when it will be able to rely on its own forces to the exclusion of all others, whatever they may be. There are friendly forces in Lebanon such as the UN emergency forces, for example. The time has come for us to be able to look after ourselves without asking a friend or a brother to make sacrifices for us or to be martyred for Lebanon's security. Lebanon's security is a Lebanese responsibility and, if we agree among ourselves, we should be able to shoulder that responsibility ourselves.

Such a solution would require regional accord and conviction by everyone, that Lebanon, especially now, cannot be a confrontation state and should therefore be neutral in military confrontations at this stage so that it may be able to rebuild itself, its independence, prosperity, economy, infrastructure, and superstructure. Once such a conviction and regional accord over Lebanon are achieved, there will be no need to use the Lebanese legitimate forces for military strategic purposes. These forces were not supposed to carry out the operations they did in the past, but we are talking about the present.

The Lebanese legitimate forces—the army, the internal security forces, and other forces—could be used for internal security purposes within the regional accord context. That would, first, spare the army from its preoccupation with border matters and, second, eliminate the internal negative interactions and influences which have always fueled Lebanese internal, and often bloody, conflicts.

Al-Hawadith: The Arab leaders could ask you: Where is the Lebanese consensus in support of the points you raise in your plan? It is no secret that [Acting Prime Minister] Dr Salim al-Huss had some reservations regarding some of the things you said in your speech. Furthermore, ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt have sent cables to the UN secretary general doubting the validity of your representation as the Lebanese legitimate authority. What is your answer to all those who have defied your representation, from Prime Minister al-Huss to ministers Birri and Junblatt? What will you tell the Arab leaders when they ask you about accord in your country, before you submit your plan to them?

I do not derive my legitimacy from one leader or another. My legitimacy stems from the fact I was legitimately elected by the Chamber of Deputies, which gave me constitutional legitimacy. I was elected unanimously on the basis of almost full representation of all areas and sects. My legitimacy is the legitimacy given to me by the Chamber of Deputies. It would be a different matter if the Chamber of Deputies withdrew its confidence in me because the Chamber of Deputies is the body which gives and withholds confidence.

Failure in this could not be attributed to one person or another, nor is it a question of appeasement like, say, the president giving certain partisans five posts in return for confidence. Giving or withholding confidence is not a matter of mood or the color and shape of one's nectie.

Al-Hawadith: What would you tell the regional leaders?

President al-Jumayyil: The regionai leaders are more aware than you and me of the pressures brought to bear on these figures to make them take stands which do not reflect their true feelings, convictions, and conscience. The whole world knows that perfectly well, just as it knows that what is published in the press in the morning is the opposite of what is said backstage by the influential decisionmakers, especially abroad.

Al-Hawadith: How, then, can Lebanon as a country be taken seriously if the prime minister casts doubt on and has reservations regarding the positions taken by the president, which, incidentally, also applies to such ministers as Birri and Junblatt?

President al-Jumayyil: Lebanon is not only four or five people. I once said on the Elysee steps on my way out of a meeting with President Mitterrand that if Lebanon was given a referendum under impartial protection, the real convictions of the Lebanese people would surprise the world.

Al-Hawadith: Forgive me, Mr President, if I ask annoying questions. You have recently said that Lebanon has gone backward since the Syrian forces entered it in 1976. You mentioned that since then there has been destruction, evacuation, occupation, strengthening of militias and statelets, and starvation. But, Mr President, all this has also happened during your term of office. Do you feel partly responsible?

President al-Jumayyil: What has happened during my term of office? Did the Israeli Army enter Lebanon during my term of office? Did the multinational forces enter Lebanon during my term of office? Did the Syrian Army enter during my term of office? What has happened during my term of office? My sole concern has been to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli Army and the liberation of Lebanon.

My sole concern has been to confirm Lebanese sovereignty and the authority of the state throughout Lebanese territory through the legitimate Lebanese forces, and also to reach deep understanding with Syria by laying sound foundations for Syrian-Lebanese bilateral relations. I took over a presidency for salvation. What presidency did I assume and in what state was the country when I came? I became president when Ari'el Sharon was inside B'abda palace and when the militia logic prevailed throughout Lebanon.

Al-Hawadith: When you assumed power the dollar was worth 3.85 Lebanese pounds. Now it is worth 300 pounds. This is just an example and it happened under your reign. Do you feel at all responsible and do you see it as a failure of your presidency?

President al-Jumayyil (sarcastically): I did not know that I had that kind of power and that my mere presence would give the dollar such a boost. Let us not forget that the Lebanese economy is exhausted after 12 years of war. Just the bill for gasoline and other subsidies comes to about 50 billion Lebanese pounds. I do not believe that the president of the republic has a magic wand that can

remedy this, particularly since he cannot get his Cabinet together and since the government cannot take bold and sound steps to tackle these problems.

In the absence of a rational Cabinet meeting, I have had to convey in writing some ideas for dealing with the stifling economic and social crisis. I sent a memorandum of ideas to the people concerned drawing their attention to the possible consequences of the crisis and offering practical solutions. Practical solutions require, first, a cut in expenditures; and, second, an increase in revenues. Third, because one particular class of people is paying the price, there should be compensation for the poor in the form of social services, which I outlined in detail in that memorandum, which also includes a clear and frank bill ready for an immediate Chamber of Deputies vote. There are also decisions and decrees ready for the Cabinet and ready to be signed.

So, first of all we are paying the price of 12 years of war. Second, we are paying the price of the well-known disruption of government work. Third, we are paying the price of the strengthening of militia activity in Lebanon which in turn increased [militia] control of state funds and added more inexplicable burdens. If the Lebanese public knew about the taxes imposed by the militias on certain basic commodities and on certain factories producing essential materials, they would have risen against everything on Lebanese territory.

Al-Hawadith: But the Lebanese citizen who, for the first time, faces starvation and sees the Lebanese pound collapsing, asks: What is the president of the republic doing? In your answer you have blamed certain factors, attitudes, and individuals but do you not think, your excellency, that, as president, you are partly responsible? Or do you believe that you could not carry out what you wanted to do? What is your role, or how do you personally assess your part in the country's present state of affairs?

President al-Jumayyil: The responsibility ultimately falls on the president of the republic even if he is not responsible for what happens. I have pledged to tackle these problems and find solutions to them as soon as possible despite the difficulties, the impossibilities, the obstacles, and the fog which clouds all vision, to the very last day of my term. I will seek an appropriate solution even on the last day of my presidency. I am working hard but I do not want to dwell on this point because it is personal. But I do pay very, very dearly.

It is not easy to confront the logic of terrorism and lawlessness with the logic of legality and peace. "Robbing" the state is the prevailing practice on the ground and so is the logic of illegality or giving legality to the state of illegality and to the logic of terrorism and violence. That began in 1975, not during the term of Amin al-Jumayyil. When I came to power I refused to fall into the trap of terrorism and I refused to meet terrorism with terrorism and violence with violence. That is how the president suffers, in not falling into such a trap where lawlessness has become the rule and lawfulness the exception. The president's difficult task is to cling to the logic of peace, unity, and legality where the logic of war, violence, and illegality prevails.

Al-Hawadith: That, in practice, is the country's predicament...

President al-Jumayyil: That is what I think. It may be that I am being fought because I fight the militias and the fait accompli approach. I reject the fait accompli which, unfortunately, is encouraged from abroad. We all know that none of the militia leaders inherited from their forefathers these funds which they spend on their fighters. We all know that there is a very important dimension to the Lebanese crisis. That is the foreign dimension which glorifies the position of the militias and strengthens their capabilities at the expense of Lebanon and its unity and at the expense of Lebanese institutions.

That is why we have this intensive diplomatic activity abroad at all Arab and international levels to explain what is going on in Lebanon and enlist the support and help of the various states to enable Lebanon to disengage the Lebanese crisis from the forces which negatively influence the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Hawadith: What incentive can you offer the various Arab and international sides to convince them that there is room for change, that the Lebanese sides will revive their confidence in your presidency, and that you are sure of what you say at a time when the Lebanese situation is deteriorating? The economy is deteriorating and there is no dialogue between you and the Lebanese leaders, whether they are militia leaders or just politicians.

President al-Jumayyil: The dialogue between me and the Lebanese leaderships is much deeper than everyone thinks.

Al-Hawadith: Tell us about it.

President al-Jumayyil: What I want now is effective work. I do not want to indulge in verbal oneupmanship or refer to the various attitudes. That is why I swallow all the abuses, insults, and criticism hurled at me daily, some of them severe and biting but not a single is one right or fair. I do not want to jeopardize the role of the presidency. When my term of office ends and I am back in the arena then we will talk, but only after my presidential term of office. Now I want to protect the credibility of the presidency and its being the sole representative of all the Lebanese people, groups, sects, and territories.

Al-Hawadith: At the end of your presidential term of office will you again assume leadership of the Phalangist Party?

President al-Jumayyil: We will see, but I do not think about that now. What is on my mind right now is the presidency and how I can serve my country and save my homeland through the burden of its heavy responsibilities.

Al-Hawadith: As your term comes to an end do you think that you will be handing your successor one or several republics.

President al-Jumayyil: It was republics that I took over when my term began and I reject the logic of several republics. My concern is saving Lebanon and saving the republics in Lebanon by rebuilding one Lebanese republic. This must be understood very clearly. What I took over was a number of republics. Everyone knows that and everyone knows the bounderies of these republics. Not one barrier has been removed since 1976. Take the Damascus road for example. Has a single barrier moved even 100 meters up or down that road?

The situation has been the same since 1976. The situation on the border between the northern and mountain regions has remained the same since 1978, and you can talk endlessly about the south. That was the state of affairs in Lebanon when I assumed power in 1982. Let us look at the map to see what Lebanon was like when Amin al-Jumayyil took over. My concern today is that we should remove these barriers, many of which have their extensions abroad or are a result of foreign interference. We are therefore supposed to tackle this issue here.

Al-Hawadith: In your meetings with U.S., Soviet, and Arab ministers, did you ask the Americans and the Soviets or just the Americans to mediate between you and Syria?

President al-Jumayyil: I do not seek mediation between us and Syria. I do not need mediation between Lebanon and Syria. Lebanon and Syria are supposed to positively complement one another. Nobody is supposed to intervene between Lebanon and Syria.

Al-Hawadith: In his UN speech Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that you have missed your chance, that the reigme has missed the opportunity. What is your comment?

President al-Jumayyil: If we have missed opportunities so have they. But that does not mean that there are no more opportunities or that we should not take advantage of available opportunities. Anyway, I have had 5 years experience in Lebanon but Syria has been there since 1976. If I am bad and if former Presidents Sulayman Franjiyah and Ilyas Sarkis were bad, then who is not bad? Let us see who remains in the country.

Al-Hawadith: According to his own official spokesman, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has asked Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' to strengthen and raise the level of security at Beirut airport. So what do you think of the U.S. request to the Syrian side to improve security at Beirut airport?

President al-Jumayyil: Quite frankly, I am not satisfied with all the security measures in these areas. The fact is that seven Lebanese Army officers were martyred in the Al-Biqa' region, for example, and many people are kidnapped on the airport road and other roads. Incidents are occurring in various areas but nobody talks about them. There is no security in any region.

We have problems in all Lebanese regions. An important fact has finally been confirmed in the eyes of all the Lebanese people: that Lebanon's interests can only be served by the legitimate Lebanese authorities and that only the security forces of the legitimate Lebanese authorities can give the public reassurance.

Al-Hawadith: What do you think of the fact that after meeting with you personally, Shultz met on the same day with minister al-Shar' and asked Syria to strengthen security measures at Beirut airport. Do you see that as an insult to you?

President al-Jumayyil: This matter was not discussed in my talks with Shultz. Perhaps Shultz had some information and considerations which concern him. Ask Shultz about it.

Al-Hawadith: But how do you interpret this U.S. request to Syria?

President al-Jumayyil: It is because Syria had undertaken this matter.

Al-Hawadith: The fact that Shultz has urged Syria to use its influence in Lebanon is of special significance. What does the United States have in mind, in your view?

President al-Jumayyil: What I know of the U.S. position is that it is primarily in favor of Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, in favor of a stronger legitimate authority, of the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, and of the Lebanese legitimate forces assuming their responsibilities. That is the U.S. position conveyed to us by them officially, a position which they repeat every day. Therefore, what Shultz said to a certain individual does not worry me so long as the U.S. position remains the same.

Al-Hawadith: Did the Americans promise you that they would play a particular role, and, did you ask them to play any particular role that would be to your satisfaction?

President al-Jumayyil: On the whole, I am satisfied with the U.S. position.

Al-Hawadith: Did you ask anything of them regarding Syria?

President al-Jumayyil: I did not ask anything of them and, anyway, the Americans do not await my opinion before deciding how to deal with the Syrians. They did not seek my opinion when they recalled their ambassador from Damascus or when they sent him back there.

Al-Hawadith: I mean regarding the Syrian role in Lebanon.

President al-Jumayyil: I explained to them my declared position as spelled out in my UN speech.

Al-Hawadith: And what about Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy? Did you ask the Soviets to play a part in connection with Syria?

President al-Jumayyil, laughing as if to demonstrate that he has enough patience for anything: I did not ask anything of anybody.

Al-Hawadith: It has been said that your meeting with the French foreign minister was stormy and confrontational. The French foreign minister will visit Damascus but he has no intention of going to Lebanon. Does that give you the impression that the French are taking a stand against you personally?

President al-Jumayyil: Journalists seem to have a very fertile imagination. I do not know where you got the information that the meeting was stormy. The meeting with the French foreign minister was one of the best meetings I have had in New York.

Al-Hawadith: Why, if he is going to visit Damascus, would he not visit Lebanon?

President al-Jumayyil: Who told you that he would not be coming to Lebanon?

Al-Hawadith: French sources. Will he be visiting Lebanon?

President al-Jumayyil: He told me that he intends to visit Syria and what he will do there. There can be no doubt that Lebanon has a place in the hearts of all French officials, and the French foreign minister is bound to carry Lebanon's woes with him wherever he goes. If he does not stop in Lebanon this time there is no reason why he should not some other time. Anyway, our relations with the French are permanent continuous relations and do not depend on whether or not a minister pays a visit.

Al-Hawadith: In your talks here in New York you discussed the link between the Syrian dimension and the Iranian dimension in Lebanon. What is the connection between the two at present and how, in your view, can it be tackled?

President al-Jumayyil: We must not forget that there is a strategic agreement between Syria and Iran. A few months ago the Iranian prime minister said that there is a Syrian-Iranian agreement under which Iranian revolutionary guards and other cadres are allowed to enter Lebanon through the Syrian Army and the Syrian presence in Lebanon. This agreement was officially announced by Iran. It frankly reveals that Syria and Iran have agreed to allow the entry of Iranians into Lebanon without the Lebanese Government's approval.

I find it strange for two states to conclude an agreement at the expense of a third state. At any rate, this indicates the link between Syria and Iran on Lebanon. This is one of the issues we intend to raise with the Syrians when we meet with them, because we want to know how true and accurate that statement was. Is there a Syrian-Iranian agreement, as stated by the Iranian prime minister?

Al-Hawadith: Have you asked the Syrians that question?

President al-Jumayyil: No, but this issue will be discussed when there is room for dialogue between us and our Syrian brothers. This matter must be clarified.

Al-Hawadith: At the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Amman?

President al-Jumayyil: I do not know.

Al-Hawadith: Speaking of the summit, Faruq Qaddumi [PLO Political Department Chief], said after his meeting with you in New York that you coordinated your positions for the Amman summit. What did he mean and did you really "coordinate" your positions for the summit?

President al-Jumayyil: Basically, and everyone knows this, I am in favor of good relations between Lebanon and the PLO. Lebanon has always been a prime defender and brilliant advocate of the Palestinian cause. At any Arab or international meeting there is bound to be some coordination between the Lebanese and Palestinian delegations. Our dispute with the Palestinians is only over the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon and the creation of a state within a state at the expense of Lebanese sovereignty. When the PLO becomes convinced of the need to function in Lebanon through Lebanese sovereignty and legitimacy there will be no problem between us.

Al-Hawadith: But so far armed Palestinians are still operating in Lebanon and the PLO has not yet expressed willingness to abandon that option. What do you think?

President al-Jumayyil: And that is regrettable because there is a conflict and Lebanon has nothing to do with it. There is a conflict between Arab blocs, and Lebanon is invariably the victim of that conflict. The Palestinian brothers have told us that they are ready to come to some

understanding with the state, if the latter is able to do that, and cooperate with us under Lebanese sovereignty and under the umbrella of Lebanese authority.

Phalangist Party To Postpone Upcoming Congress
NC121408 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The expanded meeting of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau, Consultative Council, and Central Council, which was held at noon today under Party Leader Dr George Sa'adah, was devoted to a discussion of internal organizational affairs and economic and political developments in Lebanon.

The Phalangist Party leader talked in detail about the economic situation in the country, pointing out that we are approaching a period of strikes because of the defective handling of the existing situation and the hasty decisions which have avoided the basic reasons for the problem, in the absence of a government that governs. [Passage omitted]

Regarding the situation within the party, Sa'adah renewed his call for a meeting at the party headquarters where there are suitable party institutions to deal with incidental problems in the party in an atmosphere of understanding. This is nothing new for the leaders of the party, he said. We have refused to discuss party issues through the media because this is not a suitable way to achieve solutions that will safeguard the party as a system and heritage, the party leader continued.

Dr Sa'adah explained that the recent gathering to which the outgoing and incoming heads of the various departments were invited was not for the purpose of officially handing over and taking over the posts. It was a gathering to honor these persons. The transfer of posts took place within the administrative framework after the new appointments were made. He expressed the hope that the expanded meeting would deal with the party and organizational issues that caused the recent problems and then devote the time to discussing the general economic and political issues.

During the meeting, Party Secretary General Lawyer Munir al-Haj proposed that the Phalangist Party congress, which was scheduled to be held soon, be postponed for important reasons pertaining to the unexpected change in the congress committee, the recent party appointments, and the need for time to evaluate the recent reform measures. A postponement would also give him time to prepare his administrative report for submission to the congress delegates, he added. His proposal was accepted, and those attending the meeting agreed to postpone the party congress until a later date. [Passage omitted]

Amal Threatens To Launch 'Major Offensive'
NC140929 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, Israeli troops have withdrawn from Tallat al-Huqban and a UNIFIL contingent has been deployed in their place. The reports further noted that the UN flag is currently flying over the position.

In another development, while intermittent clashes are taking place between Amal and Palestinian gunmen east of Sidon, the Amal Movement has threatened to wage what it called a major offensive to regain Baysur and Al-Mharibyah and its ridges, if the meeting scheduled to be held at the office of 'Asim Qansuh fails to call for an unconditional Palestinian withdrawal from the above areas.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement issued a military statement, saying that its regular troops have been alerted pending the outcome of the meeting. The Movement noted that the Palestinian condition to carry out the withdrawal under the supervision of the Unification and Liberation Front casts doubt on Palestinian intentions, because the Front suffers from divisions.

Fundamentalists Protest Hangings in Tunisia
NC100603 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] Pro-Iranian Lebanese fundamentalists staged a demonstration in Ba'labakk yesterday. They were protesting the hanging in Tunisia of two members of the Islamic Tendency Movement who had been sentenced to death.

Hizballah Protests U.S. Actions in Gulf
NC091610 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Hizballah staged a demonstration in Ba'labakk today to protest yesterday's U.S. attack on Iranian boats. Some 2,000 people participated in the protest.

Al-Asad To Make 'Friendly' Visit To Bulgaria

JN122012 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, is to pay a friendly state visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the second half of this month in response to an invitation by Todor Zhivkov, State Council chairman and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Foreign Minister Returns After Visit to UAE

JN131902 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Abu Dhabi this afternoon, having delivered a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on Arab developments. Shaykh Zayid gave Al-Shar' a reply message to President al-Asad.

The foreign minister arrived in Abu Dhabi before noon today. He said upon his arrival he was carrying a letter from President al-Asad to his brother, Shaykh Zayid, on current Arab developments and matters of common concern.

Answering a question about Syrian participation in the upcoming extraordinary Arab summit, Al-Shar' said President al-Asad will attend personally after agreement that the conference will take up all subjects that concern the Arab nation and not just the Iraq-Iran war.

Asked whether an invitation was extended to Egypt to attend the summit, the foreign minister said this was not on the agenda.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN140625 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus this evening on a 2-day visit to the country. He was received at Damascus International airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Zuhayr 'Aqil, commissioner general of the Israel Boycott Offices, and 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Ustuwani, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Klibi made a statement to SANA upon arrival in Damascus. He said: I am pleased to be returning so soon to Damascus to continue my talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad about all current Arab issues. I made sure of paying this new visit to Syria which plays a prominent role in our joint Arab action. This visit is also part of my contribution to current consultations to prepare for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman at the beginning of next month. Our countries hope that current contacts will achieve the principal objective of the summit—to bolster Arab ability to confront the major challenges facing the pan-Arab security. This can be realized by bolstering solidarity between our countries and avoiding the dangers resulting from the military confrontation between Iraq and Iran.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to meet His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad who does not spare any effort to bolster the march of joint Arab action. I am confident that the success of the extraordinary Amman summit will bolster the struggle of the Arab confrontation states, headed by Syria, the bastion of steadfastness, to deter Zionist hegemony and protect the comprehensive pan-Arab security.

Talas Meets PDRY, Finnish Military Officials

JN102142 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received at the honor lounge at Damascus International Airport this morning Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the YSP and PDRY defense minister, and his accompanying military delegation. They met during a stopover by the PDRY delegation at Damascus International Airport en route to the Hungarian People's Republic.

The guest was also welcomed by Major General Hasan Turkumani, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, and a number of high-ranking officers of the Army and the Armed Forces General Command.

During the meeting, talks dealt with the friendly Syrian-PDRY relations as well as the friendly relations binding the Syrian Arab Army to the PDRY Army. The talks also revolved around ways to bolster the Arab nation's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist aggression against the Arab homeland.

At noon today, Gen Talas also received at his office Gen (Bako Valtenin), the Finnish Army's chief commander, in the presence of Maj Gen 'Adnan Tayyarah, head of the Syrian side to the truce committee, and the Finnish ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with issues of common interest. Gen (Bako Valtenin) arrived in the Syrian Arab Republic on an inspection visit of the Finnish forces working within the UN emergency forces.

Paper Urges Summit 'To Confront' U.S. Policy

JN120735 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Oct 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Gulf and the Planned Imperialist Conspiracy," *Al-Ba'th* says: It is clear that the escalation carried out by the U.S. Administration in

complete coordination with agent Saddam's regime and others coincides with the ongoing preparations to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Amman.

In fact, there is an attempt, in other words, a conspiracy which is being prepared to divert attention from the basic issue—that is, the Palestine question—if it is impossible to completely ignore it as the United States and Israel wish.

Al-Ba'th continues: A review of statements by officials in the Saddam regime will make this fact clear. These officials often said the conflict with Israel is no longer a priority issue. They believe priority must be given to the war which they launched against Iran on behalf of America and which truly supports the Arab cause.

Al-Ba'th adds: What is openly and covertly taking place in the Gulf has become clear to everyone. Through the existing Gulf crisis, the U.S. Administration, together with some Western and regional forces, wants to achieve something serious based on reality. It seems that some local forces, other than the Iraqi regime, have been driven behind this U.S. objective. In fact, these forces are working in the interest of this objective with all of their energy.

The United States, which tried to Arabize the Camp David accords and failed, is now trying through the existing situation in the Gulf to throttle any voice calling for the return of the Palestinian people to their territory and homeland to establish their independent state.

Some voices began to appear here and there calling for convening the Arab summit with those who attend and, consequently, cancelling Arab unanimity in pan-Arab decisions. This simply means implementing what the U.S. Administration tried to impose after the signing of the Camp David accords.

Al-Ba'th concludes: It is the duty of all Arabs to be aware of the dangers of what is taking place, particularly since U.S. policy was not and will not be in line with any Arab right.

In light of this situation, the coming Arab summit should deal with how to confront the aggressive U.S. policy in the region—the policy which has unequivocally proven to be a strictly Israeli policy.

Commentary Defends 'Pan-Arab Role' in Lebanon

JN091452 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: For a long time and most probably since the eruption of fighting in fraternal Lebanon, Syria has been saying that the only way out of the crisis is by initiating a dialogue among the Lebanese and bringing about a national accord based on indispensable foundations. Lebanon's sovereignty, its unity and independence, and its genuine Arab affiliation through forging distinguished relations with Syria are foremost among these foundations.

And for a long time that may also date back to the eruption of the fighting, Syria has been placing itself at the disposal of the Lebanese. Syria has done so to help them resolve the crisis through political endeavors and military and security capabilities when events and needs make this action necessary. In so doing, Syria has acted on the basis of accord, rebuilding the homeland, and seeing Lebanon play its pan-Arab role in confronting the Arab nation's historic enemy, Israel.

Syria has played a pan-Arab role in Lebanon throughout the past years which have seen the eruption and development of the Lebanese crisis. Anyone who examines this role will find that we have made dear sacrifices to help preserve Lebanon's unity, land and people.

Throughout the past, the gates of Damascus have always been open for all Lebanese groups and figures which have sought its help, advice, or its contribution to sponsoring the dialogue among Lebanese parties. This was the case when such a dialogue was aimed at extinguishing a fire here or preventing a disaster there or taking a step toward achieving national accord.

Damascus has always been offering and continues to offer advice, sponsor dialogue, and work to extinguish fires in Lebanon. However, Damascus has never sought to see one side triumph over the other or one sectarian plan over another. Syria has strongly opposed any ambiguity regarding the Lebanese national accord, Lebanese unity, Lebanon's sovereignty, and its independence and Arab affiliation. Throughout the past, and since the first Syrian security force entered Lebanon to preserve the peace there, Syria has been working to avert any armed conflict before it erupts and to end any clash and its consequent evils.

Syria has also been trying to protect the lives of the innocent Lebanese from shrapnel and the salvos which have spared no Lebanese city or village. Throughout all of these phases, Syria has been strenuously working to help the brethren overcome their tribulations after the abnormal situations are ended.

There may still be some parties in Lebanon, some of whom are occupying high levels of responsibility, who are apt to renege on stands and change compass directions. These parties seek protection depending on probable political developments here or there. They promote forthcoming imaginary solutions originating from beyond this sea or that ocean. They head for some international forums to assail Syria and its redemptive role in Lebanon.

These parties are merely placing themselves against all the Lebanese citizens who have gone through the experience and submitted their evidence about it—be they ordinary citizens, parties, or constitutional organizations and institutions. He who does this would be harming Lebanon's future.

The moment will come when this future will turn into a current that will tear away all the obstacles preventing Lebanon from seeing its awaited sunshine. And he who chooses to put himself in this dangerous corner will be forgotten by us, by the Lebanese, and by the Arabs. Then, this state of oblivion will be of his own choosing.

Afghanistan

UK Envoy Criticized for 'Interference'

LD111630 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto
1130 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, 11 Oct (*Bakhtar*)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that on 9 October at 0900, a group of journalists from the BCC, who are engaged in preparing a report on the DRA, entered a military area in the Qargha area, Kabul Province. While engaged in photographing the Afghan-Soviet military establishments without permission, the journalists were stopped by the military control authorities.

The report adds that some diplomats from a number of Western countries, who were playing golf, arrived at the scene of the incident and, contrary to diplomatic norms which require them to abide by the rules of the host country, engaged in improper discussion and debate with the military authorities.

After informing the group of journalists about their actions which were contrary to the laws of the DRA and contrary to journalistic norms, the group of journalists was released.

The spokesman added that today, 11 October, at 1100 the charge d'affairs of the British Embassy was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and was told that the Afghan authorities consider his interference in guiding the illegal activities of the BBC journalists to be undesirable behavior and consider it to contravene the efforts toward improving the relations between the two countries.

While condemning this action by the staff of the British Embassy, which contravenes diplomatic conduct, the Foreign Affairs Ministry demands that the repetition of such actions should be prevented.

Armand Hammer Arrives, Met by Minister La'eq

LD122000 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Dr Armand Hammer, one of the outstanding personalities of the social, economic, and trade circles of the United States, arrived in Kabul this afternoon on a special flight for a short visit to the DRA.

He was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Comrade Sulayman La'eq, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of nationalities and tribal affairs; Dr Farid Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission of Kabul city; Muhammad Musa, first deputy head of the Executive Committee of the People's Assembly of Kabul city; Muhammad Hakim, deputy head of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries; the head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and [name indistinct] counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Holds Talks With Najib 13 Oct

LD132354 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] At 1530 this afternoon in his office at the headquarters of the Central Committee of the PDPA, Comrade Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA and the president of the Revolutionary Council, met with a great American social and business personality, Dr Armand Hammer, who is visiting the DRA. At the meeting, Comrade Dr. Najibullah talked about national reconciliation and its values, the situation in this region and the recent developments in the country.

In response, Dr. Armand Hammer acclaimed the measures and steps taken under the leadership of Comrade Dr. Najibullah to end the war and bloodshed in the DRA. He expressed hope that these philanthropic measures reach to quick successes.

According to another report, Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and the minister of foreign affairs, met this morning with Dr. Hammer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

A *Bakhtar* reporter reports that Dr Hasan Sharq, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of returnee affairs; and 'Abdulhamid Mohtat, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Nezamuddin Tahzib, president of the DRA Supreme Court, met separately in their offices with Dr Hammer.

Dr Hammer visited a number of business offices and markets including Saray Shahzadah and various parts of Kabul. He presented gifts to Watan Nursery during his stay in Kabul.

Dr Hammer also answered questions from local and foreign reporters at a news conference at the reception hall of Kabul International Airport at 1700 today.

A reception was held yesterday at the Milmapal Hotel to honor Dr Hammer and his companions. A number senior government and party officials and workers of social organizations were invited to the reception.

Dr Armand Hammer left Kabul by plane this evening. He was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Comrade Sulayman La'eq, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of tribal and nationalities affairs; Khalil Ahmad Abawi, president of the Kabul City Reconciliation Commission; the head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the fist assistant of the Executive Comittee of Kabul City Assembly; the vice president of the chambers of commerce and industries of Afghanistan; counselor of the USSR Embassy [name indistinct]; and charge d'affairs of the embassy of the United States in Kabul, (John Goldsman).

Keshtmand Meets Soviet Friendship Delegation
LD102051 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, met today in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers with a high-ranking delegation of the USSR Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, headed by (Sadeq Gabi Ogly Khabibbulayev), minister of local industries of Azerbaijan SSR, which has come to Kabul to take part in the week of Afghan-Soviet friendship.

At this meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, subjects of mutual interest, further broadening of relations between the people of the DRA and Soviet Union, and further consolidation of friendship were discussed.

Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador in Kabul, was also present at this meeting.

Message Sent to CSSR on 'Friendly Ties'
LD130929 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 12, *Bakhtar*—A congratulatory message of the party and state leadership of the DRA was sent to Prague addressed to Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and Lubomir Strougal, prime minister of that country on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the signing of treaty and friendship and establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia.

It has been stated in the message that the 10th of October as an outstanding day in the history of the relations between the two countries is considered as a significant basis for development of our traditional friendly ties. These relations has reached its new qualitative stage after the victory of April revolution.

The message was signed by Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA and chairman of Council of Ministers of the DRA.

Najib Comments on Reconciliation Policy
LD130946 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 503 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 12, *Bakhtar*—The expansion of the policy of national reconciliation constitutes the most important duty of the PDPA at the moment.

This was said by Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC, in an interview with the magazine of *Party Life* on the policy of national reconciliation published in the third edition of the magazine.

The enemy has intensified its efforts to frustrate the policy of national reconciliation. Washington and the reaction of the region are trying to increase their interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to expand the dimensions of the undeclared war. Thus, our country has been converted to an important circle in the policy of state terrorism of the White House.

It should be pointed out that the other side in the past seven months was not able to present any programs which could compete with our program in respect of its revolutionary and positive aspect and to strengthen peace potential in Afghanistan.

It is essential to seek the subsequent ways of strengthening this potential. The nation-wide conference of the PDPA on national reconciliation will provide all-sided replies to this effect.

Touching on the main results of the policy of national reconciliation, general secretary of the PDPA CC said that this policy has acted as a motive for promotion of self-consciousness and the sense of responsibility of the masses of the people of Afghanistan. The policy has revealed the unused potentials and has promoted the credibility of the PDPA and the state of the DRA among the people.

National reconciliation, Dr. Najibullah emphasized, is in conformity with the basic interests of the majority of the people. Thus, the policy of national reconciliation mobilises around the PDPA ever-more allies and the objective grounds for the expansion of the social bases of the revolution and for the further growth of revolutionary process in Afghanistan develop.

The work of the High Commission for National Reconciliation with the membership of tens of thousands of patriots and representatives of the other side is improving. The system of local coalition organs develops. Despite the obstacles created by Pakistani and Iranian authorities, the number of returnees is increasing. Contacts with clergymen have increased. The centre for Research of Islamic Sciences was opened. The journal of *Ershad Islam* debutted its publications and more and more funds are being allocated for the renovation of mosques and other religious requirements.

Regarding the role of the PDPA, Dr. Najibullah said that the PDPA is a guiding force in the society and nobody divested the PDPA of this right. The role of the PDPA for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation embodied in the constitution that is to say, the PDPA is the organiser and safeguarder of this policy, said Dr. Najibullah.

Magazine of *Party Life* publishes valuable theorical, political and information material.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Policy in Gulf
LD131924 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 13 Oct 87

["Commentary"—*Bakhtar* headline]

[Text] Kabul, 12 Oct (*Bakhtar*)—In order to impose its domineering policy—which in various parts of the globe is called the policy of neoglobalism—the Washington administration has always needed pretexts. And now the war between Iran and Iraq—the main instigator and intensifier of U.S. imperialism—has become a pretext for the military onslaught of Washington and its NATO allies in the Gulf.

They want to portray these aggressive and war-mongering actions as means for maintaining the security for shipping in the Gulf, where vital U.S. interests lie, in international opinion. However, the presence of dozens of major Pentagon warships and the loads of offensive, even strategic, weaponry prove that freedom of navigation is solely a pretext.

The aggressive U.S. actions, which have been described by Hayrani-Nobari, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow, as piratical acts, are, in fact, the continuation of the Washington administration's policy of supremacy and domination in various parts of the globe, including this region. We have long known about the blatant U.S. aggression in the internal affairs of our country, U.S. (?preparation) for lordship over the people of the region and the unique U.S. strategy of its military presence in the Gulf. And in order to preserve the interests of our people, we demand unity in our ranks.

We agree with Hayrani-Nobari's statement that Washington's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan threatens the Islamic Republic of Iran, our neighboring country. This is logical.

Ever since the interference and aggression of the United States and its regional allies endangered our country's existence, we have asked the Soviet Union—the eternal friend of the Afghan people whose friendship has passed the test of time for over 50 years—for assistance in order to repel the aggression. We have predicted categorically that the United States would use this as a pretext to implementate conspiracies and aggressions and to intensify aggression and interference.

Now, Mr. Hayrani-Novbari, has also come to this logical conclusion, stating that the United States has used the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan as a pretext to continue its subversive activities against us.

We welcome Hayrani-Nobari's statement that his country wants an independent, nonaligned, and tranquil Afghanistan, which further shows Iran's understanding of the interests of our people.

In view of our ancient and extensive relations with the people of Iran—historical, religious, and cultural—we hope that relations between our two countries will improve as soon as possible and that our borders will become borders of peace and friendship so that, as Mr Hayrani-Nobari said, Iran will not be endangered as a result of further U.S. aggression in Afghanistan.

These facts clearly show that U.S. imperialism is the true enemy of the Afghan and Iranian peoples. The United States is trying its best to block the progress and growth of these two neighboring countries with open and covert conspiracies, wanting in this way, once again, to shackle our freed people into political and economic dependence on the United States.

We can state very categorically our wish for the fraternal Muslim peoples of our two countries to jointly strive to foil the imperialist conspiracies that seriously threaten all the countries and peoples of this region, and to rub the nose of the defeated aggressors in the dirt.

Forces Capture 'Extremist Elements' in Takhar
LD140913 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Excerpt] At a meeting, thousands of inhabitants of Khvajeh Ghar District, Takhar Province, have welcomed the measure by the national Security Forces to crush a group of extremist elements that attempted to disrupt the peaceful life of that district's inhabitants.

According to a BIA military correspondent, in a combat action in the Dasht Gal'eh region, Khvajeh Ghar District, at the request of the district's inhabitants and the National Reconciliation Commission of Takhar Province, 72 criminal extremist elements, including 6 ringleaders, Abdol Ghani, Khayr Mohammad, Gholamoddin, Bahramoddin, Baz Mohammad, and Farid, were captured and their weapons and ammunition including 2 guns, 1 Dshk, 53 assorted weapons, 1 heavy machine gun, 80 missiles, 3 rocket launchers, and thousands of rounds of ammunition were seized. [Passage omitted]

Mujahidin Leader Denies Stinger Sale to IRGC
LD131436 Kuwait KUNA in English 1345 GMT
13 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 13 (KUNA)—An Afghan resistance leader has strongly denied reports that the Stinger missiles with which the Iranians earlier this week hit American helicopters in the Gulf were supplied by his commanders to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

"This allegation is absolutely rubbish", said Yunos Khales, chief of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami resistance group in a press interview published Tuesday.

He gave the denial when asked to comment on reports that two of his commanders namely Mulla Faqir Ahmed and Mulla Mohyuddin [names as received], had sold 16

American supplied Stinger missiles to the Iranian Government representatives and that the deal worth one million dollars was struck in Pakistani city of Quetta between the two sides.

"Those coming out with such allegations should also provide solid proof", Yunos Khales remarked.

Party Sends Message to Nimroz Peace Province

LD122324 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] The good wishes message of the PDPA Central Committee; the DRA Council of Ministers; the DRA National Front; the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan; and the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan address the following to the toiling people of Nimroz:

Comrade Rokhshani the secretary of the Nimroz provincial party committee, Governor Comrade Sarmachar; esteemed Abdullah Rahmani, president of the national reconciliation committee; Comrade Faqiri, of the Provincial Council of Trade Unions; Comrade Najibullah; and the secretary of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan; send this message of good wishes to the toiling people of Nimroz:

Dear compatriots, brothers and sisters, the honorable people of Nimroz.

With great pleasure we were informed that the province of Nimroz has been declared a region of peace by the residents of the province. This is the decision of the Afghans, the Baluchs, Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks and other nationalities residing in the province, who have resolutely decided to put an end to the fatricide which has been waged by the imperialist powers, the reactionary regimes of the region and extremist groups.

War means death and destruction. The years of war have distanced the peasants from their land, businessmen from business, artisans from their professions, and children from the schools. The construction of hydrotechnic plants, canals, Karezes [underground irrigation canals], dams and tube wells which are of vital importance to the province has, during the war years, been suspended.

Peace, that is life. Our mothers need peace so that they can educate their children in a tranquil enviroment. Children need peace so that they can study. Only under peaceful condition can a prosperous life be restored. If the peace we have been waiting for for a long time is established all over the country, then we can develop business, industry and agriculture and build a large number of schools, homes and hospitals sooner. We can dignify Afghanistan through our creative work, wisdom and competence.

The declaration of the province of Nimroz as a region of peace has been facilitated by the declaration of national reconciliation, announced by the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government. This policy is responsive to the hopes of the people of Afghanistan. An invitation of peace was heard by our refugee compatriots. In a short time, regardless of the obstacles created by the reactionary forces in Iran and Pakistan, and also by the extremist groups, just in the province of Nimroz alone, 300 families have returned to their homes. A positive dialogue with the tribal leaders of Baluch is continuing, which leads us to look at the future optimistically.

No armed contingents of opposition groups remain in the province of Nimroz. Peace assemblies have been set up in all districts and most of the villages. Self-defense and village defense units in which 618 people are organized, have been set up. All of these deeds give a new impetus to the process of national reconciliation and to the scale of its expansion.

The PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Council of the Ministers declare their resolute support for the just act and good intentions of the peace-loving people of Nimroz and consider this act of theirs as an assertion of their patriotism and loyalty to the revolution and all Afghan people.

The PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government started practical new measures for peaceful reconstruction and assistance with the people of this province.

Your peace-seeking initiative is a good example for others to imitate and we are absolutely sure that all the patriotic people of dear Afghanistan will use this initiative. The example of Nimroz will be an honorable page in the history of national reconciliation. Let the ever-existing hope of our people the cessation of bloodshed in our ancient land of Afghanistan be realized. Peace yes. War no.

[Signed] Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan and president of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council;

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, president of the DRA Council of the Ministers;

'Abdurrahim Hatef, president of the DRA National Front;

Satar Pordeli, president of the DRA Trade Unions;

Farid Ahmad Mazdak, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.

India

Gandhi Departs for Commonwealth Conference

Stops in Tokyo

BK120345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister has arrived in Tokyo, on his way to Vancouver to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference beginning tomorrow. On arrival, he was taken to Japanese Prime Minister Mr Nakasone's official residence. Mr Gandhi will hold talks with Mr Nakasone this morning. He is scheduled to leave for Vancouver later this afternoon.

Earlier, Mr Gandhi, accompanied by a high-level delegation, was seen off at the Delhi airport by ministerial colleagues and members of parliament.

Speaking to newsmen before his departure, the prime minister said the recent developments in Fiji will figure prominently at the summit. Many countries, including India, have taken action against the military regime led by Colonel Rabuka. Mr Gandhi was confident that more countries would join in taking similar action and hoped that democracy would soon be restored in Fiji.

About apprehensions that Washington might pressure India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the prime minister said our stand on the issue is very clear.

On nuclear disarmament, the prime minister said we have seen a small light at the end of the tunnel. At a prolonged meeting with the president, Mr Venkataraman, Mr Gandhi discussed the details of his visit.

From Vancouver, our special correspondent, Dweepesh Chandra Bhaumik, reports a few heads of states and governments are already in the city for the 5-day meet.

2,000 Sikhs Demonstrate

BK130800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has been having wide-ranging discussions with several heads of government now in Vancouver, Canada, in preparation for the Commonwealth summit opening later tonight. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, about 2,000 Sikhs held a demonstration and shouted slogans outside the venue of the summit. There was strict security and they were prevented from approaching conference premises.

BBC Interviews Gandhi on International Affairs

Comments on Fiji, Pakistan

BK100345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out any military action in Fiji. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said political and economic pressures can make the coup leader Colonel Rabuka see reason. In an interview with the BBC, he also said that India wants the Commonwealth summit, beginning next week, to evolve a joint strategy for putting pressure on the military regime to restore democracy in Fiji.

About the situation in Sri Lanka, the prime minister said the peacekeeping force will now be taking much tougher steps to restore peace in the northern and eastern areas of the island.

On the recent Indo-Pak clashes in the Siachen Glacier area, Mr Gandhi accused Islamabad of starting the hostilities and said that Pakistani troops crossed into what is clearly Indian territory and attacked our posts.

Replying to questions on the Islamabad proposal for mutual inspection of nuclear projects, the prime minister alleged that Pakistan is developing a bomb mostly by clandestine methods, without knowing any technology to manufacture it. He said India has the capability to make the bomb, but it does not want to do so.

He described as a step forward, the temporary suspension of U.S. aid to Islamabad for its pursuit of a nuclear weapons program.

Mr Gandhi disclosed that the Swedish gun manufacturers, Bofors, had given more information needed by India, and it has promised to give some more. He reiterated that to the best of his knowledge there has been no payoff to Indians.

[London BBC World Service in English at 0015 GMT on 10 October in a shorter report on this interview adds: "Speaking of the difficulties he is facing at home, the Indian prime minister said he didn't think Punjab was yet ready for a new political initiative. But he went on to say it is getting ready for it. We have an open mind."]

Comments on Sri Lanka

BK100545 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0524 GMT 10 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 10 (*Lanka Puwath*)—*Lanka Puwath* London correspondent Sooriya De Silva reports that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in an interview with BBC2 last night said that the Indian peacekeeping forces will act firmly to disarm the terrorists, in Sri Lanka.

The text of the interview is as follows:

Interviewer: Now that you have called the Army out onto the streets of Trincomalee do you think that you are going to be able to control the situation and end the communal violence in the Eastern Province?

Rajiv Gandhi: We'll do our best, and I am sure we will be successful.

Interviewer: Why is that it (?has taken) you nearly over two months to really make the Indian Peacekeeping Force active?

Rajiv Gandhi: The first attempt in any such situation must be to try and win over the people, because we are there at the request of the Sri Lankan Government. We have to see what is best for Sri Lanka in the long term and in the long term all the people have to live together in Sri Lanka.

Interviewer: There have been many criticisms of the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka and indeed in India because they haven't acted firmly against the Tamil Tigers and have in fact not been keen to disarm them.

Rajiv Gandhi: They are acting now.

Interviewer: Doesn't this show that at one stage you were in a way biased and in favour of Tamil Tigers and didn't disarm them?

Rajiv Gandhi: No that's not true. We tried to pull Tamil Tigers over into the mainstream for a voluntary disarming so they could get involved in the development process but many things have happened which have not allowed that to take place.

Interviewer: Would you now actually disarm the Tamil Tigers?

Rajiv Gandhi: Well, our forces will act very firmly.

Gandhi Explains Objectives in Sri Lanka

BK131628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] In an interview published in the Canadian newspaper *Global Mail* today, the prime minister expressed the hope that even now the Sri Lankan Tamil militants will come around and abide by the peace agreement and lay down arms. He warned that hard solutions leave scars.

Mr Gandhi said the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka is shooting only to defend themselves and to protect innocent civilian lives.

Government, LTTE Accused in Fasting Death

BK131136 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 1 Oct 87 p 4

[Text] Subramaniam Swamy has alleged that Prabhakaran [LTTE leader] is responsible for the death of Thileepan [LTTE cadre who fasted to death to press for the LTTE's five-point demand] and now he is shedding false tears. This allegation was made in a statement issued by the Lok Dal Party.

The general secretary of the Lok Dal, Subramaniam Swamy, met and spoke to the leader of DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], Mr Karunanidhi, at Anna Arivalayam [in Madras] on 28 September. The party's secretary for the Tamil Nadu unit, David [name as published], was also with Subramaniam Swamy.

The statement says that Prabhakaran and the Government of India are responsible for the death of Thileepan. The Indian Peacekeeping Force should have arrested Thileepan when he was fasting. Thileepan would not have died if that had been done. Prabhakaran failed to save Thileepan. He did so because he was afraid that Thileepan might rise to compete with him later. Now he sheds false tears.

Opposition Discontent Over Troops in Sri Lanka

BK110620 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 11 (AFP)—The leader of the most powerful Tamil separatist group has urged Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to order a halt to the Indian offensive against his forces in northern Sri Lanka, a spokesman said Sunday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) chief Velupillai Prabhakaran has sent a letter to Mr Gandhi asking him to instruct the Indian troops to "immediately" end their attacks against the Tigers, the LTTE spokesman said by telephone from Madras, southern India.

Indian Peacekeeping Forces, numbering nearly 15,000, began their offensive against the Tigers Thursday after the LTTE reportedly killed more than 130 people, mostly Sinhalese, following the suicides of 15 LTTE fighters while under the custody of the Sri Lankan Navy.

Mr Prabhakaran warned in his letter that India would have to bear the responsibility "for the large-scale civilian casualties the offensive was bound to result in."

The 33-year-old guerrilla leader added that the operations against the LTTE violated the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord signed July 29 in a bid to end the island nation's bloody separatist campaign.

The LTTE spokesman did not say when or how the letter was sent to the Indian premier.

Indian officials here could not be reached for comment.

The spokesman added that Mr Prabhakaran was "safe and free," but would not say if he was directing the LTTE's counter-offensive against Indian troops and paramilitary forces as alleged by Indian military commanders.

Unconfirmed reports Friday said that the LTTE leader had been arrested.

At least 50 Tamil militants and six Indian troops have died since the Indian operation started Thursday in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna Peninsula, an LTTE stronghold, according to Indian diplomats in Colombo.

Reliable Tamil sources said the LTTE, the biggest of six Tamil separatist groups, might still have "up to 2,500 armed cadres" in both the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which the militants had sought to separate from Sri Lanka to create an independent Tamil homeland.

The Tigers reluctantly surrendered some of their weapons following the accord, but have held back most them, according to both Indian and Sri Lankan officials and diplomats.

Meanwhile, a right-wing Indian opposition party has demanded the immediate convening of Parliament to "discuss the sharply deteriorating" situation in Sri Lanka, newspapers reported Sunday.

The Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party [BJP], during its national convention at Jodhpur in northern India Saturday, also asked the government to issue a white paper on Sri Lanka, the *Hindu* and other newspapers said.

BJP leader and former Foreign Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was quoted as saying: "Placing the Indian Peacekeeping Force under the instructions of the Sri Lankan Government is an unprecedented step fraught with the gravest consequences for India."

Indian troops landed in Sri Lanka after the signing of the July 29 accord to monitor the peace agreement and to get the separatists to surrender their arms.

Another opposition leader, Parvathaneni Upendra of the regional Telugu Desam Party, said Saturday that he feared the accord was failing as India was getting "too much bogged down in the internal law and order situation in Sri Lanka."

He told reporters at Hyderabad, southern India, that Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene was "making India do what he cannot do with his own force," the *Indian Express* reported.

Natwar Singh on Talks with U.S. Officials

BK091210 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] India has urged the U.S. to take a second look at the continued military assistance to Pakistan. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has said in Washington that his meeting with U.S. congressmen and administrators primarily dealt with the question of U.S. aid to Islamabad and the Pakistan nuclear question. India's views and her legitimate concern at the Pakistani nuclear program was emphasized at the meetings.

Mr Natwar Singh met as many as 13 prominent U.S. congressmen and senators yesterday. They included the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr Dante Fascell, and the chairman of the House Subcommittee on South Asian and Pacific affairs, Mr Stephen Solarz.

Indian officials in Washington said that the talks, essentially a prelude to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's, visit to Washington this month, drew a favorable response from both the Reagan administration and the Congress. The prominent congressmen and senators, in their meeting with the minister, told him that they are attaching great importance to Mr Gandhi's visit, as it comes at a moment when many important subjects like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Afghanistan, and other regional and bilateral issues need immediate attention.

Reports from Washington say that some prominent congressmen are considering an amendment to block aid to Pakistan when the issue comes up for debate on the floor of the House next month. Meanwhile, Mr Solarz has said that he is introducing legislation linking aid to Pakistan with the Islamabad nuclear issue. He said a certification by President Reagan that Pakistan is not enriching uranium above 5 percent should be given before giving any aid to Islamabad. Mr Solarz said Pakistan's assurances on the nuclear issue are not worth considering. Mr Solarz was addressing the India-American Forum for Political Education in Washington.

Fence To Be Built Along Bangladesh Border

BK091200 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 9 (AFP)—India has decided to build a fence along its border with Bangladesh in the northeastern state of Assam despite objections from Dhaka, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Friday.

Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mohanta said the fencing of the border would begin after floods which have hit the state recede, PTI said.

No further details were immediately available.

Bangladesh has in the past protested against Indian plans to build such a fence, which New Delhi says is necessary to curb illegal infiltration, especially into Assam.

Assam is ruled by the opposition Assam Gana Parishad (AGP) which won power in elections after spearheading a violent anti-immigrant protest which left more than 2,000 people dead.

The anti-immigrant campaign, directed mainly against Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers who the AGP said were fast outnumbering native Assamese, ended with the signing of a peace accord with New Delhi in 1985.

Reports of Terrorism Prompt Alert in Delhi
BK101516 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] A general alert has been sounded in the capital following reports indicating the possibility of fresh terrorist activity in the next few days. According to sources, intelligence reports and interrogation of the terrorists held in Punjab have indicated that some terrorists might have sneaked into the capital. Delhi police have advised the people to remain vigilant against any suspicious activity or happenings in their localities. They have also been asked to remain cautious regarding any unidentified objects they come across and inform the police immediately.

Five Killed in Punjab Incidents 11-12 Oct
BK121635 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab five persons, including a terrorist, were killed and four injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night. A terrorist gunned down two persons and injured two in village Randhawa under Hoshiarpur District. In Ferozpur District one person was shot dead and another injured by the terrorists in Abohar town. In Faridkot a terrorist was killed in an encounter with police in Bagha Purana police station area. In Amritsar terrorists shot dead a farmer in a village near Harike police station and took away his licensed gun.

Iranians, Afghans Arrested on Punjab Border
BK140125 Hong Kong AFP in English 2341 GMT
13 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 14 (AFP)—Border guards have arrested about 14 Iranians and 10 Afghans on charges of having illegally entered India from Pakistan, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said.

The arrests were made in the northern Indian state of Punjab, PTI said Tuesday, without giving dates.

Police in Punjab's Ferozpur District told PTI a local resident named Mehar Singh had been charged with smuggling in connection with the illegal entry of the 24 foreigners.

Delhi Experiences Major Power Breakdown 13 Oct
BK131304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] There was a major power breakdown in New Delhi today. The entire city was without power supply for more than an hour in the afternoon. According to a Delhi electric supply undertaking, the failure was due to a disturbance on the northern grid.

Iran

Navy 'Ready To Confront' All Foreign Forces
LD132024 Tehran IRNA in English
1952 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—Withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Persian Gulf and global arrogance's halt of support to Iraqi regime is the best way for restoration of regional security, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan told foreign military attaches in Tehran today.

"In that case the Iraqi-imposed war will end in the Islamic Republic's victory within a short period," he noted.

The commander said the Navy has its disposal ground-to-sea missile systems and other advanced equipment and is ready to confront all foreign forces stationed in the regional waters. "We are fully prepared to respond to the U.S. mischevious acts in the Persian Gulf," he asserted.

Malekzadegan said regional security was restored when Iran's naval forces smashed the Iraqi Navy, but tension returned to the region when arrogant powers equipped and ordered the Iraqi regime to hit Iran's shipping. Regional security would not have become such a dangerous topic if the Iraqi regime was not supplied with weapons, he added.

Provocations of the Iraqi regime followed by despatch of the arrogant armada to the region took place when global arrogance led by the U.S. realized that Saddam was doomed, said the commander. Over 80 warships of different classes have [word indistinct] entered the region, he said.

Their (foreign forces) pretext is to restore security in the Persian Gulf, said Malekzadean, reiterating that security would be guaranteed if only they did not supply Saddam with weaponry.

On the U.S. crime against an Iranian cargo ship *Iran Ajr*, Malekzadegan said, contrary to the U.S. allegations the ship was not principally capable of carrying mines and laying them in the Persian Gulf. Experts can confirm this fact by looking at the ship's picture.

"If U.S. claims were true it would never erase its crime's evidence," he said, noting that the ship's crew were savagely tortured by U.S. forces after the ship was seized.

Although global arrogance has turned the region into a powder keg and presence of foreign forces is exacerbating the tension daily, Iran's Navy with its advanced facilities is fully ready to inflict a crushing blow on the arrogant powers in the region, said Malekzadegan. "Necessary plans have already been prepared and we are awaiting orders to implement them," he stressed.

Greek Vessel Reportedly Detained 12 Oct

NC121120 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1030 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] The Ministry of Merchant Marine has announced that the Iranian authorities have still not allowed the Greek freighter *Mikonos* to leave the Iranian harbor of Bandar-e 'Abbas. The *Mikonos* was on its way from the Red Sea port of Aqaba with a cargo of timber and frozen meat for Al-Dammam port in Saudi Arabia. The 26 members of the *Mikonos* crew are in good health. The Greek authorities are proceeding with the necessary actions so that the vessel may be released.

Ship Released; Crew on Board

NC131515 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1500 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] The Greek freighter *Mikonos* has left the Bandar-e 'Abbas port to which it was led by the Iranians on 9 October. The vessel is heading for Al-dammam port in Saudi Arabia, which was its original destination. All 26 members of the crew are on board the ship.

REUTER Reports Attack on Saudi Tanker 12 Oct

LD131345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] *Reuter*, citing shipping sources in the Persian Gulf, has reported: A ship of the Saudi Kingdom was attacked by a gunboat 12 miles from the coast of Dubayy last night. This is the second time that this oil tanker has been attacked in less than 3 weeks. No report has yet been received on the possible losses resulting from the attack on the 39,115-ton Saudi oil tanker, the *Petroship-B*.

The attack took place at 200 local time, that is 1600 GMT, while the tanker was on its way out of the Persian Gulf. The oil tanker, *Petroship-B*, was also attacked by speedboats on 20 September on its way to Jeddah.

AFP Reports No Casualties

NC130719 Paris AFP in English 0712 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, Oct 13 (AFP)—Iranian high-speed gunboats attacked a Saudi tanker, the *Petroship-B*, early Tuesday in the southern Gulf, regional shipping sources said.

The tanker was hit 10 nautical miles (11 statute miles or 17 kilometers) off the coast of the United Arab Emirates port of Dubayy, the sources said. There were no casualties and the ship sustained only light damage, they added.

Iranian gunboats twice attacked the *Petroship-B*, on September 20 in the southern Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz.

Liberian Registered Tanker Attacked 14 Oct

LD141052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] IRNA reports that the Lloyds of London has announced that the Liberian registered tanker *Atlantic Peace* was attacked by a number of warships during the early hours of this morning in the southern part of the Persian Gulf.

According to the report, Lloyds has not announced the identity of the attackers or on any probable damage and casualties as a result of the attack.

Musavi Urges Japan To Stay Out of Gulf

LD110702 Tehran IRNA in English 0658 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—Prime minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Saturday that there are great potentials for Iran-Japan cooperation in the interests of both countries. Prime Minister Musavi was speaking in a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Tokyo Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli who is here on a home-coming visit.

Musavi noted that the west would certainly lose by following U.S. policies, and expressed hope that Japan would not involve herself in the crisis created by the U.S.

Khamene'i Receives 'Status Report' on Forces

LD121330 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i received Chief of Joint Staff Brigadier General Esma'il Sohrabi here Sunday. During the meeting Brigadier General Sohrabi presented a status report of Iran's armed forces.

70 Percent Self-sufficiency in Arms Reported

LD121117 Tehran IRNA in English
1035 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Shiraz, Oct. 12, IRNA—Minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust said here Sunday that Iranian experts have access to advanced technology in military weaponry and can manufacture even such things as aircraft and surface-to-air missiles.

Speaking at a ceremony in which bulk production of new mini-katyusha missile launchers started, Rafiqdust added that the Americans spent eight years to produce 'Tow' missiles while it took the Iranians only 2 1/2 years to do the same.

In its war with Iraq, Iran does not want to be dependent on the outside, the IRGC minister said, adding that at least 70 percent of Iran's arms needs is produced locally.

Referring to U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf, Rafiqdust [word indistinct] that ways to confront the U.S. and retaliate its mischievous acts were under study and that 'in due course' Iran would deal a heavy blow on the U.S. He said the best response to the U.S. is to continue the war with the Iraqi regime 'Because Saddam's downfall means an end to all wishful hopes of the U.S. in the region.'

The mini-Katyusha missile launcher, manufactured by the IRGC military industries plant can be mounted both on boats and cars.

Meanwhile, an IRGC official said that production of this missile launcher will save the country a total of $141 million per year.

Geneva Arms Procurement Office Reported Open

LD132048 Kuwait KUNA in English
1759 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Bonn, Oct 13 (KUNA)—Iran has reopened its arms procurement office which was shut down in London last month in the Swiss city of Geneva, a well-informed source who declined to be named told KUNA Tuesday.

The source said Iran is furnishing the Swiss office with fresh staff instead of those kicked out of London who have become exposed.

Tehran has dropped the idea of opening the office in either Frankfurt or Hamburg because of the media uproar that accompanied the break out of the story.

London had informed Bonn of the names of the Iranians who were running the office in London to check their infiltration into Germany.

The office was closed in London when Iran failed to respond affirmatively to the Security Council Resolution 598, calling for a ceasefire in the war with Iraq in prelude to peace talks.

Iran, Iraq Embassy Staffs Arrive in Ankara

LD121104 Tehran IRNA in English
1005 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Ankara, Oct. 12, IRNA—The charge d'Affaires and staff of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad along with their families arrived here early Monday and were welcomed at the airport by Iranian ambassador to Turkey and Turkish Foreign Ministry director general for the Middle East.

Iraqi Embassy staffers in Tehran also arrived in Ankara at 01:00 A.m. local time Monday and the two countries' diplomats went to their respective embassies here. The group of 15 Iranians depart for Tehran Today.

On October 3 Iran broke off diplomatic Relations with Iraq. Turkey has agreed to protect the interests of the two countries at its embassies in Tehran and Baghdad.

Beirut Embassy Issues Statement on Camps

LD141159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, within the framework of the constant attempts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to put an end to the war of the Palestinian camps, a delegation of the ulema from Sidon, in the south of Lebanon, met yesterday with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in our country's embassy in Beirut.

According to the report, in the statement published by our country's embassy in Beirut and was published in today's newspapers in Beirut, the need to put an end to the current clashes in the camps and start immediate discussions between the warring parties in the east of Sidon was emphasized. The statement also stressed that the uprising of the Muslims in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be a model for all revolutionaries in the Islamic world, so that all may know that the war against the regime occupying Jerusalem and its allies always enjoys first priority.

Velayati Questions Muslim Silence on Attack

LD111742 Tehran IRNA in English
1542 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati cabled a message to Head of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Sharifuddin Pirzada (?Sunday) [words indistinct] to the U.S. helicopter attack on Iranian Patrol boat [word indistinct] the renewed Iraqi use of chemical weapons.

The message said similar hostile actions of the U.S. and Iraq against Iran and its revolutionary people have been clear to all the oppressed world and have always prompted their outcry.

Addressing Muslim states, the message questioned their silence on the U.S. aggression on Islamic Iran, saying that such silence would lead to the mobilization of arrogant powers against Islam.

Although the U.S. has entered the Muslim territory upon a request from the Kuwaiti Government with a goal of supporting the war mongering regime of Baghdad, it is in fact seeking to further colonize Muslim nations, the message said.

Elsewhere in his message, the foreign minister vowed that Iran will duely react to the world of blasphemy at an appropriate time as is expected from a Muslim country.

The message also called on the OIC head to carry out his Islamic duties in informing Muslim governments of the dangerous aspects of the U.S. aggressive acts and take suitable measures to prevent the spread of such provocations.

Khomeyni Meets Martyr, POW, MIA Families

LD131330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Families of the martyrs, prisoners of war [POW's], missing in action, [MIA's] and janbazan [those who sacrifice their lives] from Kazerun and Khesht, from Konarak village—all in Fars Province, and from the town of (Shahindezh), in Western Azarbayjan Province, and a group of families of martyrs, POW's, and missing-in-action warriors from Tehran, this morning met with Imam Khomeyni in Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran.

In the course of this meeting, Mr Karrubi, the Imam's representative and the supervisor of the Martyrs Foundation and the deputy speaker of the Islamic Majlis, in a speech, while honouring the memory of the Lord of the Martyrs [Husayn, the third Shi'ite Imam] on the 40th day after his martyrdom; paying tribute to the martyr of the niche, Ayatollah Ashrafi-Esfahani, for the martyrdom anniversary of this divine scholar; and praising the families of the martyrs, POW's , MIA's and janbazan for their devotion and selflessness; offered the families congratulations and condolences on behalf of His Holiness the Imam.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Imam of the Ummah responded to the sentiments expressed by the audience.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Committee Visit

LD122005 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] At the end of the visit by the OPEC Production Supervisory Committee, Mr Aqazadeh, our country's oil minister, talked to correspondents about the discussions held in Tehran. He said: During the meeting we discussed and debated the forthcoming OPEC meeting, current market conditions, and ways of making all members adhere to their allocated quotas. Referring to the price of oil he said: currently there is an understanding among the majority of OPEC members to establish a minimum price of $20 per barrel at the next meeting.

Our oil minister, discussing the Iraqi quota, said: During the Tehran meeting we stressed Iraq's return to its production quota and it was stated that Iran would not accept a change in Iraq's quota. In addition, members attending the conference were united in agreeing that without Iran's support OPEC cannot reach an agreement. Therefore, the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has played a decisive role in OPEC, has been noted. Mr Aqazadeh added: From the Islamic Republic of Iran's viewpoint, the matter of a production ceiling is subject to prices. If we establish a price of $20 per barrel or higher, then we will support a reduction in the production ceiling.

Two Mehdi Hashemi Accomplices Executed

LD101008 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Two persons sentenced to death by a Theologians Court on charges of complicity with Mehdi Hashemi were executed at Evin Prison here Wednesday.

The court said in a statement here today that the two convicts Fathollah Kazemzadeh and Reza Moradi were executed for murdering Abbasali Heshmati and his two sons. The ruling was issued also with respect to the plea for capital punishment by realtives of the three victims.

Hashemi, former head of the Liberation Movement's Bureau in the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, was arrested last November on charges of murder, kidnapping and subversive activities. He was executed on 28th September on being found a "mufssed" (a profligate criminal).

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

IRGC Armored Maneuvers End

NC100818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] The Islamic Republic Guards Corps [IRGC] Ground Forces, using advanced tanks taken as booty, including T-72's, held armored maneuvers yesterday afternoon. People were invited to watch the maneuvers, which took place on the Qom highway.

An operations commander stated in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent: These operational maneuvers were in according with the norms of conventional warfare that prevail throughout the world. One of the special aspects of these maneuvers was that all the tanks used were captured as booty by the fighter of Islam during the "Val-Fajr-8," "Karbala'-2," and "Karbala'-6" operations, and they were all operated by the fighters of Islam. Commenting on the objectives of these maneuvers, he said: These maneuvers were held in order to prepare the armored units to provide support for Ground Forces contingents. They are an indication of the combat and armored power of the IRGC Ground Forces.

Convoy Leaves for Front

NC110648 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in continuation of the large-scale dispatch of Basiji fighters to the fronts of the war with the Zionist enemy, a second convoy of 'Ashura Epicmakers left from Miandoab for the fronts yesterday. The convoy was enthusiastically seen off by the Muslim and committed people of the city amid powerful slogans of "War, war until victory." and "Death to America."

In addition, another group of trained Basijis and combat-specialized forces from all parts of Gilan Province left for operational theaters yesterday as 'Ashura Epicmakers. They were seen off during a special ceremony.

Planes Bomb Schools, Plants

LD121118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Aircraft of the war-mongering Zionist regime of Iraq, continuing the evil policies of the Baghdad rulers, this morning attacked a number of civilian centers in our country, including a secondary school in Lorestan Province.

According to reports, the Zionist enemy aircraft attacked (Allameh Tabataba'i) secondary school in (Soheylbeig) village, Khorramabad Governerate of Lorestan Province, but fortunately, thanks to all pupils and staff taking shelter, no loss of life was caused. However, the school building was damaged. The intruding Zionist enemy aircraft also attacked two industrial and residential centers in the same province, martyring some workers, [no figures as heard] and injury to five others. Some damage was also caused.

Three other industrial plants in Ilam and Esfahan Provinces were subjected to air attacks by the aggressive enemy at 1020 and 1100 today. A number of our fellow countrymen workers were injured, and some damage was caused.

Iraqi Plane Forced Down

LD121750 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., Oct. 12, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down by the fire of the missile defence system of the Iranian forces Monday when enemy aircraft raided an industrial unit near Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Province.

There is no report on the fate of the Iraqi Pilot whose plane was downed over the nearby mountains. Local probes have started investigations to find the pilot and the wreckage of the plane.

Earlier today, an Iraqi jet fighter was shot down in the southern Iranian Province of Khuzestan.

Communique No 2,987

LD121745 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down in Khuzestan Province by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 11:15 hours local time (07:45 gmt) Monday, said a military communique here today.

In its 2987th communique, the Joint Staff Command of the armed forces said that a number of Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and enemy troop concentration sites west of Maymak, western sector, at 12-50 hours local time (09:20 gmt) Monday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops and returning safely to bases.

At least nine Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed in a southern front by Iranian artillery fire Sunday.

Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and three enemy munitions dumps, four multiple rocket launchers, one vehicle and a number of gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed in the western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian combatants Sunday.

Iranian combatants shelled Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Sunday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze vast parts of their fortifications.

In the southern sector, Iranian gendarmerie forces inflicted heavy casualties on enemy soldiers Sunday, destroying 15 gun emplacements and two vehicles of theirs.

Artillery fire of Iranian forces checked movements and inflicted considerable losses on Iraqi motorized units in Sayyid Sadiq, Zurbatiyah, Kani-Sheykh, Maymak, Mandali, Helaleh and Sharhani [as received], western and southern sectors, Sunday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavily in Maymak, Talaiyeh and Kushk where enemy fire was silenced and their engineering activities [words indistinct] concluded the communique.

Report on Karbala' Maneuver

LD131423 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] We have a report on the Karbala' Liberation maneuver in the Jam 'koran Heights, near Qom, to which we draw your attention:

The great Karbala' maneuver began in the Jam'koran Heights, near Qom, this morning in order to display the might and combat capability of the Iraqi Muslim mojahedin forces and also to announce their readiness to continue the war until the overthrow of the war-mongering regime of Iraq and to confront the conspiracies of global arrogance in the region. The reserve forces of the mobilization units of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), the 9th Badr Division and various strata of the Iraqi brothers attended this glorious maneuver.

Before the start of the maneuver, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the SAIRI chairman, referred in a speech to the desperate efforts of global arrogance to save the disintegrating regime of Saddam. He said: The presence of the Iraqi brothers in the battlefields of the war against the Ba'thist-Zionist regime demonstrates the extent of the hatred of the Muslim people of Iraq for that blood-sucking regime. The superpowers should realize that all the Muslim strata of the oppressed people of Iraq, side by side other revolutionary and struggling forces, are determined to continue their relentless battle until the collapse of the blood-sucking regime of Saddam and the realization of their divine objectives.

The SAIRI chairman called upon all the Iraqi brothers to strengthen their ranks to liberate the Islamic state of Iraq from the filthy domination of the Saddamist infidels as soon as possible.

In continuation of this maneuver, the deputy commander of the Ramadan headquarters, the center for irregular operations, described in his speech the sensitivity of the present time and stressed the need for the participation of the Iraqi combative forces in the destructive operations against strategic centers of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime inside and outside that country.

Afterward, the military commanders of the exercise issued orders for the start of operations for the liberation of Karbala', with the codename: Oh Husayn, Oh Husayn, Oh Martyr! We are coming; We are coming! [Ya Husayn, Ya Husayn, Ya Shahid! Qademon; Qademon!] and the operating forces, by attacking some hypothetical enemy positions and pounding them, moved forward toward their objectives. After crossing some harassing obstacles, they broke the hypothetical enemy's defense lines and captured these positions. After reaching their objective, the SAIRI mobilization forces hoisted the holy banner: There is no God but Allah [La Elaha Ellallah] on the captured heights and began consolidating their positions.

[signed off] Central News Unit, Qom.

Communique No 2,988

LD131725 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—Iranian long-range artillery fire shelled Iraqi eco-military centers for 24 hours beginning 16:00 hours local time (12:30 GMT) Monday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy. The attacks were reprisal measures against Iraqi bombing of industrial and residential units, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 2988th joint staff communique said that Iraq's Al-Haritha and Al-Moqaita power stations, Khanaqin railway station, economic centers in Mandali, Badrah tele-communication installations and Banmil oil installations suffered heavy losses in Iran's reprisal shelling.

Iraqi long-range artillery fire shelled the southern port cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr Monday, wounding several civilians and damaging a number of houses.

Iranian artillery fire suppressed Iraqi troops attempting to attack their positions in Helaleh and Western Maymak early Monday, paralyzing the enemy in their positions.

Iran's Mulim combatants continued exchanging artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops throughout the battlefields Monday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy and destroying two mortar launchers in areas overlooking Sardasht, Northwestern Sector.

Exchange of artillery fire continued East of Basra, Southern Sector, Monday as a result of which at least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of positions and several vehicles of theirs were destroyed.

A number of Iraqi tanks operating in Hoseyniyeh, Western Jofeyr and east of Basra were damaged by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

Iranian Navy released early Tuesday an impounded cargo ship from a southern port where it had been brought for thorough inspection on October 8. They also searched two cargo ships and an oil [word indistinct] in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, concluded the communique.

Artillery Hits Ammo Depot

LD141106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that thanks to intense and accurate artillery fire by the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps on positions of the Zionist enemy troop positions yesterday, an ammunition depot in the Halabjah region was destroyed and a large number of enemy troops were killed. The report adds that the ammunition deport continued burning for hours afterward and that repeated explosions coud be heard.

Planes Bomb Iraqi Kurdistan

LD141229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] As a result of bombings by planes of the Iraqi Zionist regime, 11 inhabitants of a village in Iraqi Kurdistan were martyred. According to the Central News Unit, following the victorious Zafar-2 operations, carried out by the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries of the 9th Badr Division and with cooperation of the people of the region, the Baghdad regime pounded the city of Kifri in Kirkuk Province, with artillery fire for 3 days and nights. As a result, a large number of citizens were martyred.

In order to prevent further cooperation by the people with the Iraqi combative forces and the warriors of Islam, the village of al 'Abd, in Kirkuk Province, was destroyed by missile fire and cluster bombs of the regime ruling over Baghdad. In the course of the destruction of this village, 11 people, including 4 children, were martyred and 23 others, mostly women and old men, were wounded.

Mojahedin-e Khalq's 90th Raid

LD141340 Kuwait KUNA in English 1251 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Paris, Oct 14 (KUNA)—The Iranian opposition movement, Mojahedin-Khalq, Wednesday announced that the "National Liberation Army" carried out its 90th military assault in the year killing 71 Iranian gendarmes.

In a statement issued here, the Majahedin-e Khalq said units of the National Liberation Army attacked gendarme bases covering 18 square kilometers in Ilam Province last Monday. It added that 71 gendarmes were killed, 22 wounded and 17 of them were captured in the assault, while security and command bunkers and weapon depots were destroyed. The statement, however, admitted that six elements of the liberation army were killed in the attack.

It said that the resistance group was able to capture the 412 hills [as received] in the Anjirak Heights in Ilam. "All the personnel lodged there were killed and the Iranian flag and the emblem of the Mojahedin-e Khalq were hoisted in the summit," it added.

The statement said this was the 90th assault against the regime since the beginning of 1987. "To date, 3,750 of Khomeyni's forces have been killed or wounded and 254 taken prisoner," it noted.

Sri Lanka

No Moves To Restart 'Political Dialogue'

BK130340 Hong Kong AFP in English 0321 GMT 13 Oct 87

[By Yves de Saint Jacob]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 13 (AFP)—The military option has won out in Sri Lanka where Indian troops are now doing what Colombo's forces tried and failed to do several times—bring to heel the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The 15,000 Indian troops and paramilitary forces deployed in Sri Lanka are now locked into a trial of strength in the island nation's Northern and Eastern Provinces with the Tigers, the strongest Tamil separatist group.

The ferocity of the fighting which has escalated in the past five days seems to indicate that India has settled on the military option and will not back off and search for a political solution to the conflict until it has achieved tangible success on the battlefield, observers said here.

Indian officials said Monday that there would be no let up in the Indian offensive until the LTTE had surrendered all its weapons, as envisaged under the July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord aimed at ending four years of separatist violence.

In Colombo, military officials said that at least 240 LTTE guerrillas had been killed in the fighting since Thursday, when the Indian operation was launched.

Indian sources said that since the offensive began Thursday New Delhi had made no moves to restart a political dialogue with the LTTE's top leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has himself stubbornly rejected any overtures.

Reflecting India's desire for quick military results, some 120 paratroopers were dropped on the northern Sri Lankan LTTE stronghold of Jaffna and many armoured vehicles have been put at the disposal of the Indian troops, various sources said.

At the same time, police have carried out raids against LTTE militants in the southern Indian city of Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu State, which has long been used as a base by the separatists.

Even if this hard line has not for the moment stirred much concern in India, including the opposition, official circles have made no secret of their concern of the effects that a long and bloody confrontation might have on the image of the Indian Army, forced to open fire on Tamils in a foreign country.

More than 50 million Tamils live in Tamil Nadu.

In Madras, the LTTE has been quick to pick up on this theme, saying in a communique that 13 innocent Tamil civilians had been killed by Indian troops in the Jaffna Peninsula.

For their part, official Indian sources had two arguments to justify their country's inevitable recourse to force.

They cited first the imminent risk that the majority Sinhalese population in Sri Lanka was preparing to take violent revenge on the Tamil community, following the massacres perpetrated by the LTTE.

The Indian peace-keeping forces had been severely criticised for their inactivity when early last week the LTTE carried out bloody attacks on Sinhalese civilians in eastern Sri Lanka.

According to observers in Colombo, India's decision to take up the military option helped ease fears among the Sinhalese community and bolstered the credibilty of those people who had defended the Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact.

The second reason put forward by Indian officials was the duplicity of the LTTE, and especially its leader, Mr Prabhakaran.

The final straw came, they said, when the LTTE went back on its commitment to the Interim Regional Council provided for in the July peace pact which was to govern the Northern and Eastern Provinces pending an election.

New Delhi had used its influence in Colombo to get the LTTE a dominant place on the council.

The LTTE's turnaround put India in an impossible position with Colombo, observers said.

Ironically perhaps, Mr Prabhakaran has by his own intransigence become the man most threatened in Sri Lanka. Mr Prabhakaran, 33, renowned for his ruthlessness, has earned the hatred not only of the Sinhalese but also of other Tamil separatist groups.

Reports from Madras say the LTTE leader is now constantly accompanied by an elite bodyguard.

The *Hindu* newspaper, published in Madras, said several Tamil groups were only waiting for the chance to kill Mr Prabhakaran.

"These groups which were outlawed by the LTTE last year have resurfaced, the Indian troop presence indirectly guaranteeing their safety," the newspaper said.

LTTE Sends Message to Indian Government

BK131050 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Madras, India, Oct 13 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebel group called for peace Tuesday, again demanding an end to the military offensive by Indian peace-keeping troops on the island, Tamil sources here said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) made the plea in a letter from leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to Mukundan Karunanidhi, a Tamil politician in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which the rebels have used as a base.

The letter, smuggled from Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka, was given to Mr. Karunanidhi Tuesday by Sathasivan Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, former LTTE regional commander in Jaffna and now a Prabhakaran aide here, the sources said.

Mr. Prabhakaran, 33, told Mr. Karunanidhi, leader of the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party, that he was ready to resume negotiations with the Indian Government if it called off its military offensive.

Mr. Karunanidhi, whose offer of financial help to the Tamil separatist campaign was spurned by the LTTE two years ago, said he had asked New Delhi to call off the military thrust into Jaffna immediately.

His request has been forwarded to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, now in Canada attending a Commonwealth summit, military sources here said.

The former chief minister of Tamil Nadu also announced that his party would hold protest rallies in the state Friday to condemn the Indian attacks.

The Indian force, established under a July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, has been trying to disarm rebels opposed to the accord.

Indian officials here and in New Delhi were not immediately available for comment on the contents of the LTTE letter, which followed a similar one last week.

At least 26 Indian soldiers and 164 Tamils have been reported killed since last Thursday in the Indian attacks in Jaffna town, the LTTE's stronghold, and in other parts of the island's north and east.

LTTE Charge of Killings Said 'Blatant Lie'

BK140320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Indian High Commission sources in Colombo have described the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran's, charge that the peacekeeping forces are killing civilians in Jaffna, as a blatant lie aimed at fomenting communal feelings for its own narrow purposes.

The High Commission's spokesman pointed out yesterday, that only the ground operations were conducted by the peacekeeping force for the last few days; offensive air operations are not being used, to avoid harming civilians and their properties. The peacekeeping force had to take more than normal casualties by adopting this procedure strictly. Air operations have been restricted only to carry troops and to evacuate the wounded. The peacekeeping force is taking every care and doing everything to avoid harming civilians.

LTTE To Initiate Disinformatition Campaign

BK140525 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0442 GMT 14 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Radio conversations between former LTTE Jaffna leader Kittu alias Krishnakumar now based in Madras and LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran intercepted by the Sri Lankan Security Forces reveal that Kittu has been ordered to proceed to London ostensibly to have his amputated leg treated, but in fact to launch a disinformation propaganda campaign against the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] operations in Sri Lanka.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that Prabhakaran in his intercepted radio message had told Kittu to spread false propaganda through Western media in order to gain sympathy for the LTTE in Europe and the United States.

This was a cover to the mass LTTE killings and the genocide committed by the terror gang which has reneged on its promise to observe the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, and gone on massacring Sinhalese and openly ordered its cadres to attack the Indian Peace Keeping Force.

Following these orders Kittu, on whose life an attempt was made by Prabhakaran has issued a statement in Madras condemning the IPKF raids on the LTTE's broadcasting centre as "anti democratic."

Kittu and Rahim alias Kanakaratnam his chief lieutenant have fled to Madras and applied for Sri Lankan passports, as they claim they want to visit London.

Tamil Group Urges LTTE, Indian Cease-fire

BK140743 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 14 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil militant group is trying to end fighting between its ally, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and Indian peace-keeping troops, one of its senior leaders said here Wednesday.

"We have told the (Indian) Government that there is an urgent need to immediately halt all hostilities," Rajee Shankar of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) told *Agence France-Presse*.

He said he had met senior Indian Government officials to try to arrange a ceasefire and another meeting was scheduled for later Wednesday.

Officials here were not available for comment.

Mr. Shankar is the military strategist of EROS, a small Marxist group that has been active in Sri Lanka's east and is a close ally of the LTTE, the biggest of six Tamil separatist groups in Sri Lanka.

He said Indian officials had wanted to know how the LTTE would react to a possible ceasefire in Jaffna, the LTTE stronghold in the island's north, which Indian troops are trying to capture.

The LTTE, beleaguered by the unrelenting attacks of the Indian Army, was reported Tuesday to have approached a powerful Indian Tamil politician, whose overtures it had spurned in 1985, to demand an end to the clashes in Jaffna.

The LTTE's former Jaffna regional commander Sathasivan Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, handed over a written request from LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakran to Mukundan Karunanidhi, a former chief minister of Tamil Nadu State.

Mr. Karunanidhi, leader of the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party, which in the past has demanded India's military intervention in Sri Lanka, said his party would hold protest rallies Friday to demand an immediate end to the military offensive.

Mr. Shankar said the LTTE was "considerably weakened" as a result of the Indian offensive and it was prepared for talks with New Delhi on "everything".

He said India needed to have a "better understanding" of the militants' many concerns, including what he said were attempts by the majority Sinhalese community to "colonise" Tamil areas.

New Delhi has previously said it has taken up this issue with Colombo.

The LTTE office in Madras could not be reached for comment.

An official spokesman said here late Tuesday that India had not received a request from Mr. Prabhakaran demanding a truce.

State-run Indian television said Tuesday that 27 Indian troops and about 200 LTTE guerrillas had been killed since the military offensive began Thursday, soon after the Tigers killed about 130 Sinhalese civilians in separate attacks.

An estimated 15,000 Indian peace-keeping troops in Sri Lanka are trying to end Tamil rebel opposition to the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending the bloody, four-year Tamil separatist campaign.

The force was established under the accord, which also stipulated that the rebels lay down their weapons.

Informed Tamil sources in India said the LTTE had managed to smuggle "large quantities of arms" to Sri Lanka in recent months.

Indian sources in Colombo said Tuesday that Indian troops were expected to overrun Jaffna town and take control of the peninsula by Wednesday.

Battle Reportage on Tamil Separatist Violence

LTTE Using 'Human Shield'

BK121616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, specific ground operations by the peacekeeping force are continuing in the Jaffna peninsula. The force is on the move forward toward Jaffna town in spite of resistance from LTTE at certain places. The All India Radio correspondent reports from Palaly that LTTE men are making a human shield of innocent citizens, including women and children, while attacking the peacekeeping force posts. The LTTE is also not allowing the people to reach refugee camps.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that the action today was concentrated in Chunnakam, Urumpirai, and outside the Jaffna Fort area. An official spokesman of the Indian High Commission told newsmen in Colombo this evening, that in the operation since last Saturday [10 October] 165 LTTE men are believed to have been killed. This figure is based on the intercept of their radio communication. About 260 LTTE members have been taken into custody, 69 of them are from the Eastern Province.

The spokesman said commandos were air-dropped this morning at Urumpirai to engage the LTTE target. Three commandos died in the action, which was completed. So far, 18 peacekeeping force personnel have died, and 79 injured. The spokesman claimed that a large number of civilians were evacuated to (Nallur) temple and two colleges in the Jaffna town by the peacekeeping force, to avoid being caught in the firing. It was also claimed that the force was doing everything possible and taking every care not to harm civilians.

In Batticaloa six peacekeeping force personnel were injured in an ambush. In an exchange of fire that followed, one LTTE member was killed and one captured. This morning there was an engagement at another place in Batticaloa and fighting is still continuing.

An official spokesman in New Delhi, today refuted the LTTE allegation that the peacekeeping force has fired on innocent people, including children at Palaly. He described the allegation as baseless, mischievous, and a part of disinformation which LTTE is feeding the public to divert their attention from LTTE misdeeds and to arouse sympathy.

The spokesman also referred to reports from Sri Lanka about the Sri Lankan Army conducting independent operations for guarding Sinhala villages in the Eastern Province, while the peacekeeping force is said to be protecting Tamil villages. He said these reports are causing confusion and clarified the position. He said the Sri Lankan Army continues to remain in the barracks as per the India-Sri Lankan agreement. In the Eastern Province, however, there are many large Sinhala villages near which the Sri Lankan Army camps happen to exist. There is no fixed presence of the peacekeeping force near all such deployments.

To provide information of any militant activities in these areas, suitable radio communications of the peacekeeping force have been located within the Sri Lankan Army camps. This is to facilitate quick passage of information so that the peacekeeping force can take timely action. The spokesman said the Sri Lankan Army in these areas, however, would take defensive measures against any militant attack in their vicinity until the arrival of the peacekeeping force units. He reiterated that the peacekeeping force continues to be responsible for the protection of Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, or any other ethnic group in the northern and eastern Sri Lanka. The Indian Government yesterday denied the report that the peacekeeping force is carrying out joint patrolling with the Sri Lankan Army.

LTTE Attacks Near Trincomalee

BK131248 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Oct 87

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] We go first to Sri Lanka where the Indian Army is continuing its offensive against Tamil guerrillas. As the heavy fighting still rages in the north of the country, there are reports now of an attack by the Tamil Tigers in the east against Indian troops and a Sri Lankan police

station near the town of Trincomalee. (John Wetty) reports from Colombo that the Indians are said to have sent in reinforcements to the east from the Jaffna in the north.

[Begin (John Wetty) recording] Reports from Trincomalee are confused, but it appears that the main attack occurred in the early hours of the morning when an initial assault had failed some hours earlier. Indian troops, as well as a Sri Lankan police station, came under fire and some buildings were reported to be burning. There is no indication of the scale of the fighting or of casualties, but the incident appears to have been big enough for the Indians to send reinforcement in from Jaffna, where they have nearly 6,000 troops. Senior Sri Lankan officials and police chiefs also flew to the scene.

In Jaffna, some reports say the Indians are making a five-pronged attack on Tamil Tigers' positions in Jaffna town, and four columns are said to be only a few miles away. The fifth group is reported to be still engaged the town outside the main military camp in the old Dutch fort. Casualties are rising although there is no agreement on figures between the two warring parties. An All India radio correspondent in Jaffna reported that 80 Tamil Tigers have been killed over and above the 163 claimed by Indian officials. The radio also said that the Indian Navy had destroyed four of the Tigers' boats carrying weapons offshore. [End recording]

And it has just been reported that the leader of the Tamil Tigers, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, has offered to reopen negotiations with the Indian Government if the Indian Army ends its offensive in Sri Lanka. The news was given by the leader of the main opposition party in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Here is Mark Tully in Delhi:

[Begin Tully recording] Mr Karunanidhi, the leader of the opposition DMK party, told reporters in Madras that he had met three senior members of the Tamil Tigers this morning. They apparently gave him a letter from their leader, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, in which he made his offer to resume negotiations with the Indian Government. The letter came from Jaffna. The Tamil Nadu opposition leader urged the Indian Government to accept this offer so that the action in Jaffna could be ended and the loss of civilian lives prevented. Mr Karunanidhi also announced that his party would hold rallies throughout the state.

The first will be held in the capital on Thursday. The intention is to condemn, what Mr Karunanidhi called, the continuing partisan attitude of the Indian Government. Mr Karunanidhi expressed deep anguish and anxiety about the plight of the Tamils in the Jaffna peninsula which, he said, has been revealed to him in the letter he received from the Tiger's leader, Mr Prabhakaran. This is the first sign of a possible Indian Tamil backlash against the army action in Sri Lanka. [end recording].

Gunboats Patrol Eastern Coast

BK130701 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0643 GMT 13 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 13 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Sri Lanka naval gunboats commenced patrolling seas between Jaffna and Batticaloa to prevent the ferrying of arms between these two points.

This followed information that Karuna and Dilip, two LTTE military leaders planned to take a boatload of arms to the coast of Batticaloa to strengthen the LTTE cadres there and commence a series of attacks, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

Meanwhile, beach security patrols were also increased last night.

According to information obtained from a radio intercept the military leaders were scheduled to leave Jaffna late last night.

The voyage by boat from Jaffna to Batticaloa usually takes about 6 hours with a heavy load.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that at Morakottachenai LTTE landmines exploded on an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] truck. No injuries were, however, caused.

LTTE Attacks Mutur

BK130721 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0700 GMT 13 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 13 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Secretary Defence General Sepala Attygalle and Inspector General of Police Cyril Herath flew to Trincomalee this morning following the LTTE launching a major diversionary attack on the security forces at Mutur, south of Trincomalee, today, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

They said that the Mutur police station and the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] camp had been attacked and a major battle was on.

A petrol station had also been set on fire by terrorists.

Meanwhile official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the IPKF was converging on the Jaffna city from five fronts [as received], in the north, north east and north west. They were within three miles of Jaffna city.

The IPKF had met terrorist resistance at Kokuvil, Urumpirai and Kopay where a 24-hour battle is on.

Meanwhile heavy security force reinforcements have been rushed to Mutur.

Official security figures released state that 168 terrorists were killed in the terrorists battles with the peace keeping forces.

Landmine Kills Policemen

BK131125 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 13(*Lanka Puwath*)—Three members of the Indian Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] were killed today by an LTTE terrorist landmine in Batticaloa town, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

They said that the landmine had blown up the vehicle killing two policemen and one officer of the CRPF.

'Heavy Fighting' in Jaffna

BK131620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, heavy fighting is continuing in Jaffna town area. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi this evening, an official spokesman said the LTTE has put up a mass wall of women and children and are preventing the peacekeeping force from advancing on the Jaffna town. The peacekeeping force is maintaining all restraint to avoid any civilian casualties. It has, however, advanced from four directions to encircle Jaffna town.

An Indian High Commission spokesman told newsmen in Colombo this evening that an estimated 200 LTTE men were killed since Saturday. The operation has claimed 27 lives of peacekeeping force personnel, 8 of them in the last 24 hours; 141 security personnel were injured.

The spokesman emphasized that offensive air operations are not being used, to avoid harming civilians or their properties. He said no other type of heavy guns, except 120-mm mortars, were being used in the operations. Only a few tanks and armored personnel carriers are being used, primarily to carry troops and to move over mined or booby trap areas. But on some occasions tanks had been used to neutralize LTTE bunkers and strongholds located in buildings.

Answering a question, the spokesman said there is no civilian casualty figure. One peacekeeping force vehicle was blown up by a mine in the Eastern Province. By and large the situation in Batticaloa is under control, but tense. In a security operation in the district, 11 LTTE members were apprehended. One CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel was killed and four others injured in two separate landmine incidents in the areas.

In Trincomalee, life returned to near normal with banks and factories functioning. Some of the refugees displaced in Trincomalee during the recent disturbances have started getting back to their original places.

LTTE Attacks Vavuniya

BK140721 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0710 GMT 14 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (*Lanka Puwath*)—A major terrorist attack on the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], the Sri Lanka Army and the police was repulsed at Vavuniya, northern Sri Lanka last night. There were no casualties among the security forces, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

The number of terrorist casualties were not known.

Indians Shell Batticaloa

BK140605 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (AFP)—At least two civilians died on Wednesday when Indian troops retaliated to an attack by Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's eastern Batticaloa District, residents said.

An Indian shell hit the town's bazaar about 50 metres (yards) from the bishop's house, a major landmark, a Roman Catholic priest said by telephone.

"There were no people out in the town because of the curfew," the priest, who asked not to be named, said. "But some houses were destroyed and people living in them may also have perished or been wounded."

One of the victims was identified as a council worker, he said. The man died at Urani, close to the camp. The second victim was killed at Mamangam, also close to the camp.

Tamil rebels attacked the main camp of India peacekeeping troops at Mendresa, on the edge of the town, after midnight, the priest, who heard the firing, said.

India has refused to announce civilian casualties during its continuing offensive against Tamil rebels in the north, but the Indian High Commission Tuesday said a total of 27 Indians had died, one of them in the east, compared with about 200 rebel losses.

The curfew was due to be lifted at 6 a.m. Wednesday but had been extended by the authorities for another 24 hours in the Batticaloa area.

Clashes in the east have been limited although the Indians say they have smashed several rebel bases there.

Jaffna Death Toll High

BK140617 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0614 GMT 14 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14(*Lanka Puwath*)—The number of LTTE terrorists killed by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) during the last four days largely during the battle in Jaffna is 280, official sources told *Lanka Puwath* today.

They said 57 members of the IPKF were killed during this period. They included two officers one of them a colonel.

Three one-ton trucks had been reported missing.

Mutur 'Under Control'

BK140727 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0719 GMT 14 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item: "Flash—Mutur Quiet"—*Lanka Puwath* headline]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The situation as at noon today was reported as quiet.

Official sources said there was heavy patrolling of the area where yesterday a major attack on police and military establishments by the LTTE terrorists and a number of houses set on fire.

Strong and firm action had been taken to bring the violence under control and the situation as at noon today was reported as quiet, official sources said.

Indian Troops Advance

BK140809 Hong Kong AFP in English 0740 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (AFP)—Indian troops pursued their advance on the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna town Wednesday and expected to overrun it, Indian sources said here.

Six thousand soldiers from India's peace-keeping force had made "considerable progress" in an offensive to encircle the northern peninsula's capital, the sources said.

The forces, spearheaded by the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment, were pressing ahead on four axes and expected to take full control of the peninsula during Wednesday, said the sources, who asked not to be named.

But an Indian High Commission spokeswoman said Tuesday that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had resisted strongly at several points.

At least two civilians died on Wednesday when Indian troops retaliated to an attack by Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's eastern Batticaloa District, residents said.

An Indian shell hit the town's bazaar about 50 metres (yards) from the bishop's house, a major landmark, a Roman Catholic priest said by telephone.

"There were no people out in the town because of the curfew," the priest, who asked not to be named, said. "But some houses were destroyed and people living in them may also have perished or been wounded."

Tamil rebels attacked the main camp of Indian peace-keeping troops at Mendresa, on the edge of the town, after midnight, the priest said.

India has refused to announce civilian casualties during its continuing offensive against Tamil rebels in the north, but the Indian High Commission Tuesday said a total of 27 Indians had died, one of them in the east, compared with about 200 rebel losses.

Unofficial estimates by Sri Lankan military commanders had put the losses much higher.

A commission spokeswoman refused to give even approximate numbers for civilian deaths during the offensive in a densely-populated area, although she said the LTTE were using civilians as human shields.

She strongly denied a claim by the LTTE that Indian troops had committed atrocities on the peninsula, including the rape and murder of women.

The allegations were released in a statement from Madras, south India, where the LTTE had maintained offices.

India has barred correspondents from travelling to operational areas.

Indian warships have blockaded India's southern coast to prevent Tamil militants fleeing Sri Lanka or shipping weapons to it, officials said in New Delhi Tuesday.

Seven warships were patrolling the 800 kilometre (500 mile) coastline off Tamil Nadu State and Sri Lankan officials have banned all fishing or sailing around the peninsula and the north-east coast of the island.

The Indian offensive has also encompassed Sri Lanka's Eastern Province where militants opposing the peace accord slaughtered about 150 people last week prompting New Delhi to launch the offensive.

A total of some 300 rebels have been arrested by the peace-keeping force in the north and east.

Under the accord, signed on July 29, rebels were due to surrender arms and elections be held by December 31 to a new united province formed of the current Northern and Eastern Provinces, where Tamils live in a majority.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka Wednesday appealed for international help to care for some 17,000 refugees who fled their homes in the latest wave of civilian slaughters in the Eastern Province.

Rehabilitation Ministry Secretary Austin Fernando met with representatives of Colombo-based non-governmental organisations from developed countries and said food and medicines were urgently needed to avoid the spread of diseases in overcrowded camps.

Mr. Fernando said 11,000 refugees were in the eastern port town of Trincomalee while 2,000 had arrived at northcentral Anuradhapura from the Eastern Province. The remaining 4,000 were scattered in other towns.

Local newspapers reported Wednesday that more than 1,000 people had fled the violence in Batticaloa raising the refugee figure to 20,000.

About 150 Sinhalese were slaughtered in the rebel attacks, the worst of which followed the suicide of 15 rebels who were being taken for interrogation by Sri Lankan Security Forces.